

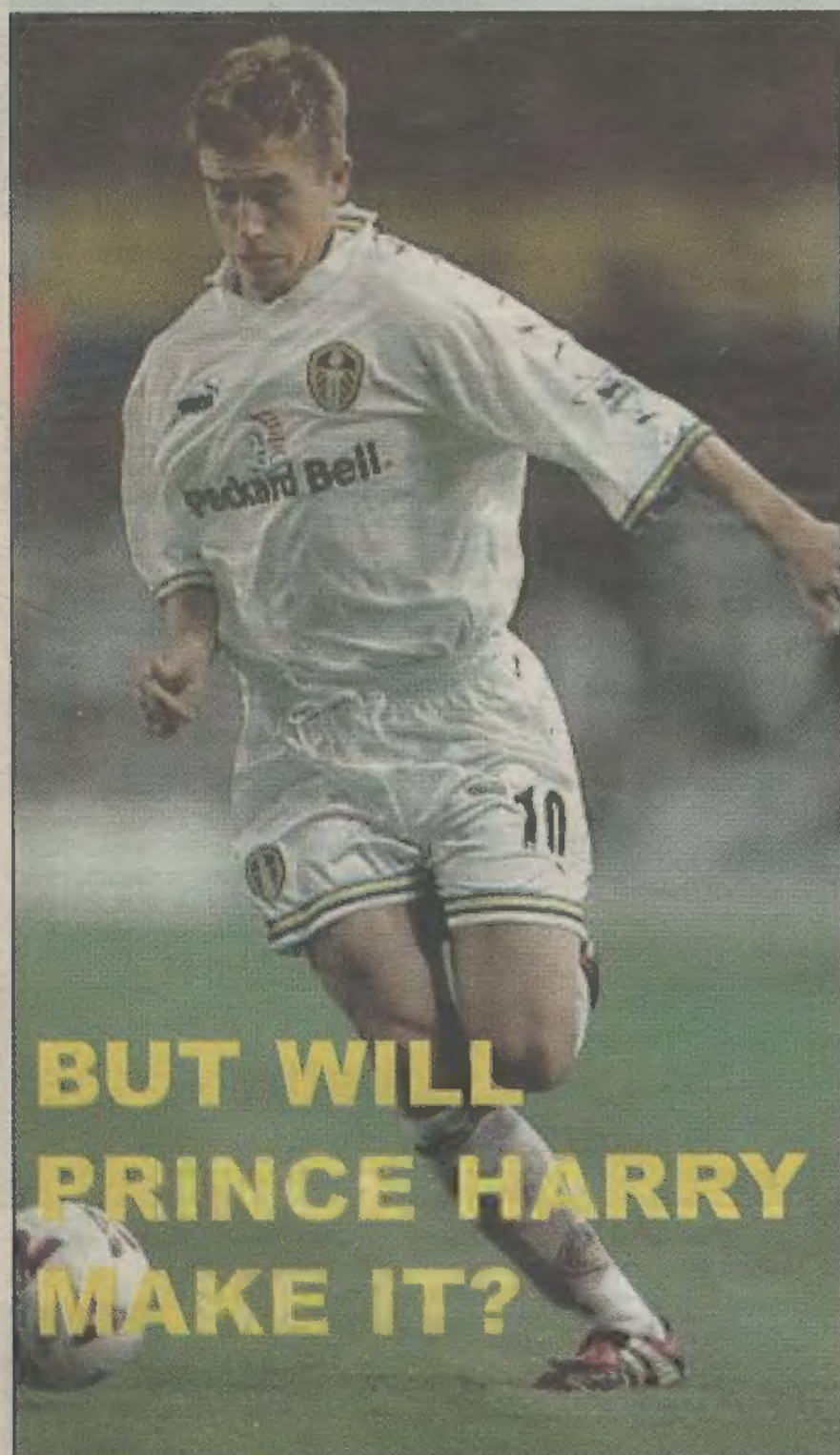
INSIDE

SOCCER

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WORLD SUPERSTARS FLYING IN TODAY



Yes, the world's greatest football nation is arriving in Australia this week. In the party will be one of the game's finest modern day strikers, a player who has combined his natural Brazilian panache and grafted on the physical quality needed for success in Europe. That player is Ronaldo, and he will lead a young Brazil squad for two games against our national team starting this Sunday in Sydney.

What *Inside Soccer* says is that Australia is also one of the world's greatest football nations. Think about it.

Arriving today is a group of Socceroos not only playing in the best leagues on the planet, but also actually starring in them.

Manchester United's Socceroo skipper Mark Bosnich was bought by the treble-winning English giants - currently the greatest football club on the globe - because he has proved himself one of the English Premier League's keepers of the 90s. Put simply he is one of the modern day keepers in Europe.

Harry Kewell is now considered one of the best three young players in the English Premier League. He has signed a massive contract that will tie him to the club till his mid twenties. The general consensus is that if he eligible he would have been picked for England by now.

Even Brazil would pick him!

Celtic's Mark Viduka has banged in goals left right and centre since his arrival at the club from Croatia Zagreb. He has been linked with some of Europe's biggest clubs since and is a superstar at the Scottish giants.

Italy's Serie A - judged by the football cognoscenti as technically the best in the world - is the home of another Aussie star, Paul Okon. Fiorentina is his second club after an injury-plagued term with Roman club Lazio. To be good enough for these two clubs says much about his sublime skills and class.

And then there's Hayden Foxe; a player originally slated to captain the Olyroos during this Brazil tour. His recent performance for our U/23s against Southampton - when we thrashed them 4-1 - had the English press

salivating at the prospect of him playing in England.

And then there's Zelic, Moore, Skoko, Agostino, Tony Vidmar and Stan Lazaridis (who played well for Birmingham City on the weekend) and of course those unable to travel, such as Mark Schwarzer, plus the not quite fit Joe Simunic.

Who would have thought a nation such as ours - so far from the epicentres of world football - where soccer's acceptance is still behind other football codes, with little government funding and for the most part apathy from the broader community, can produce such a world class set of national team players?

But wait, there's more!

As our Socceroos prepare for Brazil our next wave is building in Africa. The Olyroos are there for a game against Tunisia in preparation for the 2000 Olympics, and even that squad is filled with Euro-based talent. For example, Italian-based players Vince Grella and Marco Bresciano, Spanish-based Kosta Salapasis, Ajax's Jason Culina and English league stars Lucas Neill and Danny Allsopp.

But wait there's even more!

The national U/17s, the Joeys, have just drawn 3-3 with Argentina U/20s in Buenos Aires. Even that squad has quality players from European clubs, such as Joey Di Iorio (Germany), Shane Cansdell Sherriff and Bradley Groves (England), Adrian Madaschi (Italy) as well as 'the next big thing', Parramatta Power's Mark Byrnes.

The side is about to play in the World U/17 Championships in New Zealand (see preview inside).

Therefore, despite everything - and that includes media bias, lack of finance and inept planning over the years - we can still simultaneously produce three national teams of class and quality.

So when we say the world superstars are flying in, we are not just talking about Brazil.

Australia is one of the greatest footballing nations in the world, and it's time we believed it ourselves.

PLUS NICK THEODORAKOPOULOS, IAN CROOK, JUAN NILO, THE JOEYS

INSIDE SOCCER: YOUR QUALITY WEEKLY DEVOTED TO AUSTRALIAN SOCCER



IT'S THE BATTLE OF SYDNEY: MARCONI STALLIONS V NORTHERN SPIRIT



By Aidan Ormond

Of all the derbies in the current NSL, this is arguably the biggest and best. Carlton and South Melbourne, Spirit and Olympic are special in their own way, but this one is on another level.

The Marconi Stallions and Northern Spirit fixture may be a relatively new



Brad Maloney: his influence in midfield is key to Marconi's plans

derby, but this Sydney battle has accrued a massive amount of media interest and passion in its brief history.

It's the sort of match that is good for Australian soccer. In short, it has cachet.

Things got off to a memorable start last season when they met for the first time at North Sydney Oval - in front of a 15,000 plus crowd - on a beautiful sum-

mer night. A thumping 4-0 win for the home side rankled the west Sydney club, and from that moment on this fixture took on a life of its own.

Marconi took revenge by winning 1-0 in the home fixture then dumping Spirit out of the finals with a second leg win, following a bruising encounter in game one of the elimination final.

Why has this fixture has become the derby to end all derbies of Australian Soccer?

Because each club believes it is bigger and better than the other. It's that simple.

Marconi fans will argue their club has the history (it's a foundation member of the NSL,) four-time NSL champion and for many years far and away the most professional club in Australia.

Then there are the facilities, including a massive social club and the accrued financial muscle this can bring to its soccer operation, as well as a compact, well-appointed stadium. The players are paid well to bring in the trophies to the club once dubbed the 'Rolls Royce' of Australian Soccer.

On the other hand Northern Spirit - in only their second year in the competition - will point to their impressive profile in the mainstream media, and massive attendances (almost three times bigger than Marconi's average and only just behind Perth Glory).

There are international class players like Slater, Arnold and Crook and a privatised savvy approach to its operations masterminded by former Marconi administrator, the can-do man of Sydney Soccer, Remo Nogarotto.

As such, there are a number of ways the fans and media can interpret and perceive this fixture; in essence making it more than just a game. Old versus new,

mainstream versus traditional, north shore versus western suburbs. It's this confluence of factors that makes this fixture special.

Add in the ever-present army of noisy Spirit fans and the atmosphere at both grounds is electric.

Perhaps one day Rod Hay, the award-winning Australian football documentary maker, will direct his attentions to this fixture?

For this Saturday's clash, Marconi go into it with form on their side. An impressive 2-0 win over back-to-back champions South Melbourne in their last home game, backed up with a creditable 3-2 away win over Newcastle Breakers away sees them sitting comfortably in the six. Confidence is clearly up.

New coach Eddie Krncevic has the side looking good, but not *that* good. You get the feeling they won't fully peak till the business end of the season, which won't displease their coach one bit.

In contrast, Spirit supremo Graham Arnold will be hoping the 'peak at business end' theory will apply to his men, as it has been a disastrous start by any standards.

After an easy 2-0 win on opening day, it has been downhill ever since. Last weekend's 3-0 loss in Wollongong sees the club in the bottom three of the league.

Yet there is enough pride in the playing ranks to cast aside this doom and what better place to win than at Marconi, especially if younger players like Faria are given a go.

Expect it to be Australian soccer at its best; physical, fast with lashings of skill from the key men on both sides.

KEY MEN

MARCONI:

Brad Maloney. It's no coincidence that since this colossus in midfield returned, Marconi has looked a sounder unit. Clearly the man who can make things happen, Maloney will run the show from midfield. Is still short



Spirit striker David Seal

of full fitness but a 75% fit Maloney would be welcome in any side.

Sean Babic: He should cause the tall Spirit central defenders no end of trouble if he can run at them. His finishing has improved no end under Krncevic.

Pan-keun Kim: His cooling Korean influence at the back is always handy when temperatures boil. Is one of the best readers of the game and has immaculate distribution.

SPIRIT:

Matt Langdon: One of the few performers this year to look like a match winner. So much so that he is being targeted by opposition sides as the one to be marked out of a game.

David Seal: Can do nothing for 89 minutes but pop up and score. Class finisher.

Ian Crook: His short-lived retirement has been revoked. Still a huge influence on a side still trying to find its feet. Could be the midfield general or sweeper. His workrate last week shows he is one who still has the ticker and pride in the shirt.

INSIDE SOCCER

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Coaches: a battle of the ex-Socceroo strikers

Both are former Socceroo strikers with a mountain of experience and respect in Europe and in Australia.



Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic (right) was really looking forward to his first big derby game of the year against Arnie's (left) Spirit.

"Yeah, I can't wait. These games are good because they bring in big crowds.

"It's a pity there aren't more derbies like this. Anything to fill the stadiums up.

"We've only really had one hiccup, and that was against Carlton (a 4-0 loss).

"And of course we have had four games away from home.

"All in all I am quite happy. On the defensive side there still are a few things to sort out, but the boys are moving well and it was a good win last Friday night at Newcastle, which is a side that will cause many sides problems," concluded Krncevic.





NICK THEODORAKOPOULOS: 'I did not touch the referee'

By Aidan Ormond

This is a story about the media. Specifically a media beat-up. It involves an Australian soccer coach, some old-fashioned trans-Tasman rivalry, a controversial match, thrown beer, distraught family and friends and a tarnished image in business.

Last week was not a good one for the coach in this story; Wollongong Wolves' Nick Theodorakopoulos. It all relates to the round five game in New Zealand between his team and the Kingz.

After the action-packed 3-3 draw it was then reported by AAP that he had allegedly pushed and shoved referee Matthew Breeze after the game.

This was a big statement to make.

The story subsequently arrived late on the following day and was run by a number of Australian media outlets

(Fairfax was one.)

Since that story, Theodorakopoulos has been inundated with calls from journalists, friends, family and business associates (he runs a successful travel business as well), asking if it was true.

From a 'believing everything you read' mentality, the questions he had to fend off went along the lines of 'You didn't did you?'

Theodorakopoulos firmly and unambiguously rejects any claim whatsoever that he pushed or shoved the referee. He does say there was plenty of finger pointing, and one or two abusive words, but that was it.

Furthermore, one Soccer Australia official told Inside Soccer that the referee's report did not say anything about the pushing and shoving allegation. "Put it this way, he is not going to receive a life ban if that tells you anything," said a Soccer Australia official.

As expected we were not allowed to see the report ourselves or talk to Matthew Breeze.

Theodorakopoulos wanted to make it clear that he did not have an issue with the two red cards his players received in that game, his disappointment stemmed from the amount of time played.

He asserts about eight minutes of

overtime was played even though the fourth official signalled to referee Matthew Breeze only four minutes time to be added on; that was why the coach fumed, particularly as the Kingz clawed their way back to a 3-3 draw with a goal in time added on.

While not wishing to be quoted, director of referees Gary Power did point to the possibility that the referee could have

added time on in time added on for stoppages.

The video Inside Soccer saw only showed the highlights, so we were not able to ascertain how freely the referee stopped his clock in that crucial final part of the game.

For Theodorakopoulos, 35, it has been a week he would rather forget. "Initially it has taken away from my work as I have been receiving phone calls from all sorts of people. It's been very time-consuming," he said. "But also I have had my wife and sister calling me in distraught states asking me if it's true."

"To even think that I could do such a thing is nonsense," he added.

Theodorakopoulos' lawyers have begun examining the situation.

"Some people, maybe one in ten, have joked with me saying 'did you hit him hard?' That to me is very disappointing."

Theodorakopoulos bears the referee

in question, Matthew Breeze, no animosity at all.

"I respect him and his career," he said. "I've had a beer with him in the past and I think I am entitled to say whether I think he has had a good or bad game ... I referred my inquiries to Gary Power."

The Wolves coach will be fronting Soccer Australia's tribunal today (Tuesday).

"All in all it was outrageous for a journalist to write that about me ... there are good and bad apples in every profession I guess. At least Inside Soccer's Jeremy Ruane got it absolutely right. His match report was perfectly balanced, well-documented and superbly written."

Theodorakopoulos also claims a beer can hit him as he left the field.

"I have nothing against the Kingz supporters or the club - which has done a fine job - but hopefully this week I don't get showered with beer again. No Australian coach, in my opinion, is capable of attacking a ref, and I certainly didn't."

This whole episode has been a sobering one. With the Internet any club in the world could have read the AAP story (Theodorakopoulos has been linked to a number of Greek clubs). What does this do for the coach's image globally, not to mention how the NSL is perceived?

When contentious statements are alleged, one has to be sure they are right. In this case it looks like the journalist in question got it wrong, and as a result, Nick Theodorakopoulos has paid a price.

Wolves play Kingz in NZ this week.

"All in all it was outrageous for a journalist to write that about me ... there are good and bad apples in every profession I guess."

Nick Theodorakopoulos

LATE NEWS ... veteran Les Scheinflug will be announced as a Soccer Australia technical director of coaching this week. This will open the door for coaches like Ange Postecoglou (who will be assisting Frank Farina in Melbourne for the Brazil game).

Mark Bosnich is in doubt for the Brazil tour after pulling his hamstring again while Stan Lazaridis is still hopeful of being able to play for the Socceroos on this tour.

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readers' forum

I have an idea for a second division for the NSL. There are many clubs currently struggling to cope with the financial burden of operating in a national competition, and I believe that Australia is too small to support a full national second division competition.

My structure would see a first division national league consisting of 12 teams, initially selected by Soccer Australia (who cannot even afford a web page, but that is another issue).

At the end of each season the bottom team in the first division would drop down to play in its home state league, ie Vic, SA, QLD etc.

This team would be replaced for the next NSL season by the top club from the state leagues.

This club would be selected by first winning its state competition, secondly meeting NSL entry requirements and then thirdly winning a promotion playoff against all aspiring state league champions.

This could be in the form of a state champions' carnival, which in itself would be a good soccer spectacle worthy of media coverage, with the final prize being promotion to the NSL.

This structure has a number of attractions, including; strengthening the state competitions by moving the current NSL clubs that are not in the initial 12 team competition into the state leagues, utilising existing club football infrastructure and giving existing clubs opportunity to advance into the NSL and developing a greater interest in the state leagues.

It also does not require Soccer Australia to sustain a full national second division competition.

Has this idea been suggested to Soccer Australia and the State Associations? What do you think?

Mark (E-mail)
avid soccer fan (go Cosmos)

soccer's haka: Mexicans loved it!



Here's NZ after their recent game against Brazil. They weren't allowed to do a Haka before the game, so they did it after. The Mexicans hadn't seen anything like it and it made national news, was cover photo on most dailies the next day and it was the first time since 1955 that a New Zealand soccer team had performed a Haka. Pic courtesy Grant Stantall.

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GREG BLAKE

C7 SOCCER
COMMENTATOR



I recently made mention of the utterly silly notion - which unfortunately still pervades the thinking of some at club level - that live television coverage has a significant effect on gate-takings.

Please take note then of one particular NSL club which is currently screaming out for some - no, make that any - television coverage these days.

Seems that said club has finally duly noted that attendances have neither dipped nor skyrocketed minus the TV exposure it so publicly slammed for its effect at the box office in the not-too-distant past.

They whined loud and long to get the cameras out and are whingeing with equal gusto to get 'em back now that sponsors are asking a few questions about the lack of exposure. Well, duh!

Just on the subject of hissy-fits, surely the league is not seriously going to stoop to possibly punishing Parramatta Power boss David Mitchell for his public comments last month on the subject of the revised NSL draw?

I understand the league has requested a please explain letter from the big man for his affront at having publicly expressed his opinion on the extremely silly, lop-sided season schedule for 1999/2000.

I mean please, who the heck should we elicit opinions from on the game from if it isn't blokes with the footy knowledge of people like Mitchell?

And it wasn't as if his criticism of the Shark-less draw wasn't a widely held one amongst all the coaches anyway.

And if we gag 'em on this, what other issues are no longer in the public forum for the league coaches?

Will speaking out on any subject become something of a mystery bet for them, not knowing if they've crossed the line?

Probably sensibly, given the obviously fragile nature of league officials, Mitchell would not be publicly drawn on the issue when I spoke to him recently.

Eddie Krncevic is now officially a convert to the of 'Bugsy' school of worshippers.

"He's an inspiration, a great leader, a great captain," says the Marconi boss of his club skipper, Brad Maloney.

"He's the best type of captain because he leads by example and he's a huge asset to our team.

"If he's not, he's certainly not far from it," Krncevic responded to the suggestion that Maloney might just about be the best player going around in the NSL these days.

It took some time to convince a few people that they were back in town as a genuine force, but the Brisbane Strikers are the real deal.

When I said a few people, I actually meant me, but watching the vision of Brisbane's round five home win over Parramatta has convinced me that the Strikers will contend this season.

Power played at least as well as they have done thus far this season, but Brisbane still didn't sweat on getting a pretty handy 3-1 win.

Second-year John Kosmina has pulled out a few smokies with the likes of David Pilic, Peter Dwyer and Peter Grierson, but get used to the names because you'll be hearing plenty more from them this season.

Congratulations to Brisbane Strikers keeper Clint Bolton, who was due to play his

152nd NSL game at Perth Oval last weekend.

Unless something goes tragically wrong - touch wood - for him before this coming weekend Bolton will become the all-time games record holder for Brisbane when they host Carlton in what shapes as a blockbuster at Suncorp Metway Stadium this Saturday night.

In breaking Troy Cranney's previous mark of 152 games at Brisbane, Bolton should become the first of a clutch of players to do the same at their own respective clubs in the coming weeks.

Going into round six beloved Sydney United stalwart Vel Kupresak was just seven games away from equalling Manis Lamond's long-standing club mark of 239 NSL games.

At Canberra Cosmos Michael Musitano and Toplica Popovic are in a foot-race for the seven games they both need to equal that club's mark of 79 games, chalked up by former skipper Norm Kelly.

And South Melbourne skipper Paul Trimboli needs just 10 more games at that club to match former skipper and grand final teammate Steve Blair's 338 appearances.

Parramatta Power coach David Mitchell has joined in the chorus of coaches who stoically maintain that the team first past the post - our NSL minor premier - is still the genuine champion of the season. Just as former Sydney United boss Branko Culina laments the wonderful, yet eventually tarnished 1996/97 season, when United romped in the minor premiership but slipped up in the biggest game of the year - the grand final.

Mitchell feels United's loss in the big one under him last season doesn't accurately reflect his former club's standing in 1996/99.

"As far as I'm concerned, to achieve that (top of the ladder) is to win the league championship," says Mitchell.

Which is fair enough, but it is not an opinion I share.

Notwithstanding the fact that I'm more than satisfied with the validity of the play-off system in deciding which is the champion team, in more practical terms I'm sure the game here would suffer without the finals and grand final.

Before I became tired and emotional on Melbourne Cup day I ran into Eddie Kuzman, a former teammate of Culina and a player under him when North Geelong pulled off the most audacious championship smash-and-grab raid in Victorian Premier League history in 1992.

When North Geelong beat Juventus, on what was Victoria's first official 'for all the money' grand final, some 5,000 fans turned out to watch the game, the biggest state league crowd in a decade and far in excess of the average regular season gate that year of around 400 (that is not a typing error).

Kuzman said he felt that Premier League was on a the crest of a minor popularity resurgence that season and that by turning the clock back, as some bright sparks at the VSF decided to do in 1999, the game had lost as a result.

You'd have to live in Melbourne to comprehend just how little publicity the local stuff got this year, with the recycled first past the post championship series winding up without so much as a squeak in the mainstream media.

The punters love the finals and they vote at the turnstiles, with NSL crowd averages doubling and then some during the play-offs. And it is, after all, still the punters' game.

DAVE MITCHELL: time to Power on!

By Greg Blake

October has not been particularly kind to the league's consensus choice for coach of the year in 1998/99, David Mitchell.

Surprisingly overlooked for the national team job, threatened with possible legal action by former club Sydney United and faced with the possibility of having to front the tribunal following his forthright criticism of the revised NSL fixture list, Mitchell is battling several storm fronts.

And his team is playing like an also-ran.

Parramatta Power has laboured under the huge weight of expectations and was looking decidedly unsteady with a 1-1-3 record and an ugly 14th place on the ladder after the opening month of the season.

The remarkable formula which unexpectedly swept Sydney United deep into the play-offs in consecutive seasons has, at least temporarily, been lost in transit somewhere between Edensor Park and Parramatta Stadium.

So far that's only a worry; it's not a crisis - yet. Put it down to teething problems.

"Coming to a different organisation things have been totally different for all of

us," says Mitchell of he and the 16 players currently on the Power playing roster who crossed from cash-strapped United with him in the close-season.

"Becoming part of a professional football club has been a bit of an attitude shock for us; the transition to becoming a professional team has been quite a change.

"Last year (at Sydney United) it was all done on enthusiasm.

"Now as professionals it's all hard work, on the training track or even by going out to promote the club and it really has been a big change for them.

"I'm not saying that it's all the players, but some have found it hard to adjust."

Expectations in some quarters for this fledgling Parramatta outfit were unusually high pre-season.

Mitchell's stellar coaching effort to push last season's often unpaid and vastly underrated United team to within a goal of grand final glory assured Power of that.

That he went into the new season at his new club with much of his old team intact underscored it.

But Mitchell maintains that many others doubted the genuine pedigree of his charges and it is time for the players to stand up, particularly with litmus paper match-ups against pacesetters Perth and

Carlton to come in the next fortnight. "A lot of people said that they didn't believe we would do well," he notes.

"They said that we got more out of the players (at United) than we could ever have expected.

"They believe that (Parramatta Power) has now got a whole lot of players who we paid far too much for.

"I guess for them the time is now coming where those players have to show that they were worth it."

Not prone to making wholesale changes, Mitchell re-configured his line-up significantly for the round five road trip to Brisbane.

A sign that he will stick to his "no free rides" policy, regardless of what many of his players might have achieved six months ago at United with possibly the most unlikely minor premiership win in NSL history.

"We did get on a bit of a roll last year and some people might be in a bit of a comfort zone," he says.

Mitchell also concedes that some of the one-time unknowns who took United to the mountain top might now be targets for opponents.

"I also think there might be a bit of 'well, it's Parramatta Power and they are a



Power coaching team of David Mitchell (right) and Lawrie McKinna. Mitchell feels it's early days for his side

professional outfit, so let's go out and show 'em' sort of attitude," he explains.

"But it's early days.

"I mean it's a new club, don't forget that.

"We've only recently resolved our problems with training venues and there has been plenty of other things to iron out.

"Even now not everything is running functionally as a football club, but we've done a lot in three or four months.

"As for the players, a lot of them are only now starting to grasp the concept of being professional footballers.

"I still believe we'll make the top six.

"Anything less will be a huge disappointment."

THE POWER & THE PASSION

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THE YEAR'S BEST TOUR YET? SOCCEROOS V BRAZIL



By Mark Fisher

International Marketing Group (IMG) is yet another big company wishing to take a punt on soccer in Australia. The odds on them staging a successful international series between Australia and Brazil are good, as their's will be billed as a star-studded and serious two-legged contest.

Of course, events such as this don't materialise without plenty of hard negotiation in advance. Like that employed by

Nevertheless a tidy profit was made, and Stadium Australia was christened by football in its purest sense.

Rivkin's Manchester United series lacked a first-team lineup on the part of the Aussies this time, yet still knocked the stuffing out of the AFL's "blockbuster" between Carlton and Essendon - and which was followed by a steady decline in that rival code's weekly attendances.

International football may well have come of age in Australia this year; a point which if true should be further reinforced by revolutionary developments re-mould-

is again ranked as number one in the world by FIFA.

Our current ranking: sixty-fourth.

If Frank Farina does inspire his squad to perform well against them, however, then surely he will have earned a valuable 'downpayment' prior to Australia's next World Cup campaign.

After all, the jury is still out as to whether he can earn the same respect as that commanded by Englishman Terry Venables, who was largely well-regarded even after his resignation in 1998 as Socceroo coach.

At the very least, the opportunity now exists for Farina to develop a workable rapport with his team, particularly as they undertake such a testing assignment ahead.

Regardless of who takes out the series, there will no doubt be other winners not directly involved in the on-field action.

Soccer Australia is likely to win out because it expects to make a tidy cut - and by doing so move further into the black.

It goes without saying that the future of the sport in Australia hinges greatly on the financial shape of its premier administrative body.

What about the crowds? Providing they are happy with the product, they will turn out in healthy numbers. Those in attendance should delight in seeing the Brazilians in action for the first time.

The spin-off of that outcome could be added conversions to the soccer fold, not to mention a maintenance of faith for those with the game in the veins already.

IMG, too, stand to make a profit, and in turn may continue to bring out quality competition in the future.

Let's just hope the playing surfaces at the MCG and Stadium Australia are fit enough to do the matches some justice.

With no Rugby League or Rules



New Australian captain, Manchester United's Mark Bosnich. He has been installed for this two-game series.



Heading our attack is the V-bomber Mark Viduka



Watford's Richard Johnson, the Newcastle-raised midfielder may well make his debut

IMG, forcing the Brazilian Federation to commit to sending a 'strong' team, although the CBF's decision to play Spain at roughly the same time will still result in some notable absentees.

Like Frank Farina's diligence and commitment in finally securing the services of young gun Harry Kewell.

Kewell's renewed availability comes despite long-standing recalcitrance from Leeds' manager David O'Leary, who insisted his player 'rest' instead during an impending hiatus in the English Premier League.

On top of all of this well-publicized hard work, a huge amount of luck has graced the series as well.

Ronaldo, arguably Brazil's 'trump card', is anticipating a trip to Melbourne and Sydney in order to familiarise himself with some of the venues of the 2000 Olympic Games, in which he may well take part.

In addition to that shot in the arm for the series, the Socceroos will be at virtually full strength for both encounters. Great news for Aussie soccer.

It has to be said that controversy, in its many forms, is nothing new to football promoters in Australia. The difficulty in bringing out quality players and teams to a nation still warming to soccer can never be underestimated, especially when the international football calendar is becoming increasingly crowded year by year.

Despite this, there have been some interesting success stories with regards to these matches played here of late.

With or without many of the big names, Left Field Solutions' World Stars game managed to pull 88,000 spectators, despite lacking many stars from the last World Cup.

ing the locally-held perception of the sport.

These developments range from an intention to professionalise the National Soccer League, through to the establishment of increased press coverage.

Add to these a more co-ordinated plan for Australia's internationals, and you start to see an unlocking of tremendous potential for the code here.

Which brings us to where we are now - the forthcoming series featuring the Socceroos up against Brazil, one team that makes football an art form.

Even if Rivaldo (Barcelona) and Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid) are likely to be missing, along with fellow Champions League stars Jardel (Porto) and Serginho (AC Milan), their presence should be more than made up for by the likes of Ronaldo, Denilson, Giovani, Alex and Ronaldinho, who are all regarded as very likely inclusions.

All things considered, the Brazil matches will undeniably be very physical encounters. Our odds of winning the series are slim indeed.

Brazil at the senior level is always a daunting prospect; a view supported by SBS soccer analyst Johnny Warren.

According to the former Socceroo captain, "the fact is Brazil could field three or four high-quality teams". It matters little as to whether the Socceroos will face mostly players with extensive European experience or not. Brazilians generally like to uphold their footballing tradition in the best way they know how - and that is by winning constantly.

Brazil's men's national team

played within a month of the Brazilian tour, the curators of both venues have no excuses for not getting the surfaces right.

Despite lingering controversies, it is hard to see this forthcoming series as anything less than appealing.

It isn't that often that we get to see a full-strength Australian squad assembled at home.

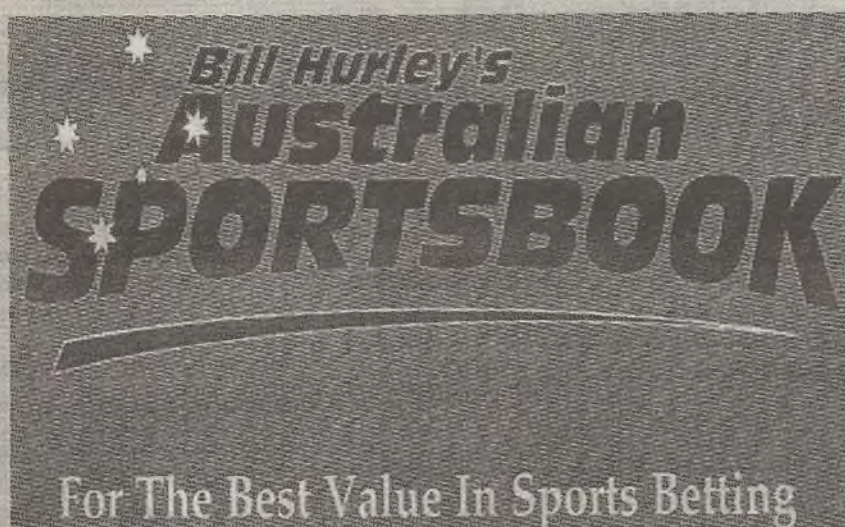
Not to be too put off by criticism from certain elements of the media, I am rather looking forward to the MCG game, regardless of the absence of Roberto Carlos's trademark free kicks.

My only expectation: simply that both of these quality sides play well and put on a good show. That's a reasonable bet, wouldn't you say?

POSSIBLE SOCCEROO STARTING LINE-UP FOR SYDNEY GAME 1



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NSL ROUND 6: BRISBANE DESERVED LEADERS



Wollongong Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos

Coach of the week goes to Nick T of Wolves. After a harrowing week he has come through to beat Spirit 3-0. No wonder he can afford a rare smile!

Round six in review

It was a good weekend for all things Royal. Not only was the Queen smiling after the referendum vote but the Kingz of New Zealand also had a victory - their first on Australian soil.

And their fans saw it live in New Zealand!

It's easy to write off the Kingz. They don't have any recognized star players (their only real stellar signing is usually now on the bench coaching them) and endured pre-season that was less than intensive.

Their relatively late inclusion in the league (they had to wait for FIFA approval in July) further hampered their progress.

Even the local media in New Zealand wrote them off, saying that a mid-table finish would be a good outcome in their inaugural season.

But what coach Wynton Rufer's side has is a great team spirit and enormous reserves of fighting passion - the sort of thing we expect from New Zealand sides.

This win should boost their crowd for this week's game at home against Wolves. The game is being played in Christchurch.

One team that doesn't have that fighting spirit is the team of the same name: Northern Spirit.

Another loss on the weekend has coach Graham Arnold tearing his hair out. He said later that there were players running around on reputation alone.

He has also indicated that this week's Sydney derby against Marconi will see some younger faces. Let's hope the exciting talent that is Antonio Faria, plus Simon Catanzaro, will have their chance.

The side certainly seems to be missing the midfield spark of Kresimir Marusic, who seemed to score when most needed, plus Robbie Slater's injury against Strikers two weeks ago was untimely.

The players are paid well at the North Sydney-based club - certainly more than sides like the Kingz and Cosmos - yet they lack that desperation.

And their fans, arguably the best and most supportive in the nation, deserve much better. But we all know that.

Expect coach Arnold to make some tough decisions shortly regarding his playing roster.

Parramatta Power is another so-called glamour team underperforming despite the framework of full-time professionalism.

On Friday night they were held at home 1-1 to Gippsland Falcons, a side that has never had the adjective 'glamorous' attached to it. Yet like the Kingz and Cosmos, it's full of good old-fashioned fight.

One unnamed Falcons player told me after the game that the Power players - although in good spirits - seemed to lack that genuine desire. Their exhortations were not "fair dinkum".

Just goes to show that money can't buy you everything.

It is rare to see Tommy Sermanni fume at a press conference, but that's what happened after Friday night's rainy 2-0 loss to the powerful Carlton side in Melbourne.

He, and many others, fully believed Archie Thompson was off-side. The goal effectively killed off Canberra's chances of winning the game and Sermanni did not hold back at criticizing the decision.

His criticism of the referee was a trenchant as Nick Theodorakopoulos' after the now infamous Kingz v Wolves game. Many feel the Cosmos coach was justified.

Speaking of Wolves manager Theodorakopoulos, he must be given the title of 'coach of the week'. After a hellish week fending off allegations that he attacked referee Matthew Breeze after the Kingz game (see page three), he remained composed enough to focus his team on Northern Spirit's visit to Brandon Park. The home side won 3-0.

After a week of tears from his family regarding the incident and its ensuing furor, he would have afforded himself a rare smile. Every long white cloud has a silver lining?

So if Nick T is coach of the week then team of the week must surely be Brisbane Strikers. Sitting on top of the league after six rounds, their smash and grab win in Perth, in front of another massive gallery, surely rates as the performance of the round.

Coach Kosmina is letting his team do the talking. It may be early days but that glorious grand final of 1996, in front of over 40,000 at Suncorp, may not be such a distant memory these days.

They deserve more than the modest crowds they have had so far, particularly this Saturday when Carlton visit. It should be a beauty.

In Socceroo news, John Aloisi arrived yesterday morning. He's here to "be with the squad" - but also for treatment. Richard Johnson, Ned Zelic, Paul Agostino and Steve Corica arrived late last night, the same time as the World Cup winning Wallabies, who we should congratulate.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"Just when I had one foot on the plane to Australia this happens"

Noted writer Harry Kewell in his column talking about a possible injury that might stop him from coming to Australia for the Brazil tour. We believe you Harry, honest.

"There are two types of football: prose and poetry."

European teams are prose, tough, premeditated, systematic, collective. Latin American ones are poetry, ductile, spontaneous, individual, erotic."

Pier Paolo Pasolini. So what about Aussies, Pier???

"It was tragic ... to see a 37-year-old putting ten kilometres on the pitch when the younger players didn't"

Graham Arnold after Spirit's loss to Wolves. He wasn't happy.

*NSL top scorers:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| PAUL FOSTER (Strikers) | 5 (pictured right) |
| Zeljko Babic (Stallions) | 4 |
| Con Boutsianis (Glory) | 4 |
| Pablo Cardozo (Olympic) | 4 |
| Michael Curcija (SMelb) | 4 |
| Daniel Watkins (Cosmos) | 4 |

Cumulative attendances after round six: 99/00: 276,512

98/99: 279,001



| | (Overall) | | | | | | | | (Home) | | | | | | | | (Away) | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | | | | | | |
| BRISBANE STRIKERS | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | | | | | | |
| CARLTON | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | | | | | | |
| SYDNEY OLYMPIC | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | |
| MARCONI STALLIONS | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 7 | | | | | | |
| SOUTH MELBOURNE | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 | | | | | | |
| PERTH GLORY | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Wollongong Wolves | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Football Kingz | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 8 | -2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Canberra Cosmos | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Sydney United | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 7 | -2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Newcastle Breakers | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Gippsland Falcons | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | -3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | | | | | | |
| Parramatta Power | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 5 | -3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | | | | | | |
| Adelaide Force | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 5 | -4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Northern Spirit | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 4 | -6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | | | | | | |
| Melbourne Knights | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 3 | -8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 7 | | | | | | |

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Falcons show why they won't be easy beats



PARRAMATTA POWER 1

Griffiths 60

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

Hastie 81

Friday night at Parramatta Stadium, Sydney. Crowd 4,067



Power's in-form striker Joel Griffiths (left) with recalled Power skipper Richard Plesa. Power drew 1-1 against Falcons on Friday night.

By Paul Goodwin

It was another frustrating evening at the 'Powerhouse' for the National League's newest Australian team last Friday, when visiting Gippsland Falcons took away a valuable point after a polished and calculated display under the astute guidance of injured player-coach Jeff Hopkins.

Power had more than enough chances in the game to wrap up the points, but always looked vulnerable to the counter attack and had all sorts of

skills and cool head of their skipper, the veteran former Soccerroo, Mehmed Durakovic and his fellow defenders.

This defence did most of its best work in the first half, when under almost constant pressure and once the Gippsland team had drawn level again late in the game, they knew all that they needed to do to claim the hard earned point was hold steady.

The Falcons keeper Bojo Jevdjovic was called into action in the fourth minute when he got a hand to a ball directed at the goal from close range by Steve Berry, whose

deft touch to a fine cross from the left byline by Jacob Burns looked as good as in, until touched onto the post.

A minute later defender Dave Barrett arrived with a well-timed run to nod a corner from the left by John Gibson just over the bar.

Berry should also have done better in the eighth minute when he latched onto a cross from the left by Mile Sterjovski but again put his effort over the woodwork.

Sterjovski looked set to score himself in the 18th when he accepted the ball from a free kick, but Durakovic got his body in the way to deny the opportunity, being heavily winded in the process.

Another free kick, this time from Milan Blagojevic, was taken nicely down low by the keeper in the 28th.

It was proving a frustrating time again for Parramatta who had some good patches of play, but hit a brick wall all too often in front of goal.

Gippsland played the perfect tactical game, defending solidly and using their speed out of defence to launch the occasional attack, ultimately to devastating effect.

They did most of this after the break and there had been many anxious moments before they could take that well earned breather in the sheds.

Robbie Puca, a real wil 'o the wisp, bobbed up on his own goal line to head away a Sterjovski goalbound header in the 42nd after Griffiths had nodded on a clever near-post corner from the left by Gibson.

Barrett also drove wide and Sterjovski volleyed over in the dying stages of the first period, while the Falcons' best offering was a well-timed run into the box by Manny Gotis to steer a free kick from the right into the side netting, with the defence all at sea.

The second half began with Power again in determined mood and Gibson forced Jevdjovic to tip over a stinging drive from a free kick right in front.

Hastie responded in the 51st when he headed just over from a Puca corner and substitute Jon Angelucci headed over as well six minutes later in a typical end-to-end passage of play.

The goal for Power arrived after Sterjovski had shown a clean pair of heels to the defenders on the left flank and cut the ball back diagonally to the 12 yard mark where Griffiths struck the ball low, first time, past a helpless keeper. It was a goal of some quality.

A Berry header in the 67th looked like extending that hard won lead, but the ball was pushed away again by the busy Jevdjovic and nobody could reach the loose ball to slam it home.

Griffiths saw his diving header to a smart Jacob Burns cross in the 80th narrowly miss the target and this latest of lost chances was to prove costly.

The old campaigner Durakovic lofted the ball hopefully forward from half way and the elusive and Willy Hastie ran through and hit the ball first time, on the rise, as he got into the box before the slumbering defence could reach it and then beat the advancing Andrew Crews with an angled finish.

Parramatta's final chance came in the 90th when Griffiths lobbed the beaten keeper from 20 yards, but the ball also cleared the bar by mere inches.

Power coach Dave Mitchell was very disappointed and made the point that his side has just got to learn how to keep a clean sheet.

He will be forced to make changes anyway for the next match, due to international commitments by several members of his squad and expects tough tackling Peter Bennett to resume and a place to also be found for playmaker Walter Ardene.

Perth Glory will be a stern test for the side but on the positive side they are likely to draw a much bigger crowd than the Victorian provincial side did this time.

Mitchell's most skilful player, Jon Angelucci is also likely to start up front due to the absence of Olyroo Sterjovski.

A beaming Gippsland coach, Jeff Hopkins, was more than happy with his own team's efforts, but found the pitch to be on the hard side which, once affected by the showers that fell in the first half, became slippery and awkward for the players in his opinion.

His team woke up, he said, once Parramatta scored and then immediately did enough to claw their way back.

Scorer Hastie came back into the side when regular John Hutchinson forced to miss the game, and the old head put his vast experience to good use, though Hopkins reserved his most lavish praise for skipper Durakovic, whose selfless attitude has rubbed off on other members of the squad.

The skipper's four-hour round trips to training are a perfect example of his

MATCH STATS



PARRAMATTA POWER:

A Crews, R Plesa (C), D Barrett, S Eagleton (J Angelucci 58), S Berry (D Townsend 87) J Burns, J Gibson, M Blagojevic, A Elrich, M Sterjovski, J Griffiths



GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

B Jevdjovic, D Fak, M Gotis, M Durakovic, A Vargas, C Bell (A Savage 11), R Puca, P Kakos (B MacNicol 82), D Marcina,

J Nilo, W. Hastie

Yellows:

Falcons: P. Kakos 30 J. Nilo 90

Power: J Griffiths 78, J Angelucci 85

BEST PLAYERS

3 Manny Gotis (G)

2 Joel Griffiths (P)

1 Robbie Puca (G)

Referee: C. Diomis

dedication and professionalism and they earn the admiration of everyone connected with the club, especially his coach.

On this showing there is still a fair way to go for Parramatta, but Gippsland look capable of matching it with any side in the land and will break a few more hearts before the season is out and may yet fulfil Hopkins' dream of finishing in the top half of the table.

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Mehmed Durakovic, the inspiration at Falcons

problems defending against set plays and corners.

It was a game the Parramatta side desperately wanted to win and they came out for the start of the game breathing fire.

A changed combination, with John Gibson starting in the midfield alongside Ahmed Elrich, gave a meagre crowd strong hope of a first win at headquarters and once the ice was eventually broken at the hour mark, it did look very much as if the locals would go on and score a few more.

That they did not do so was due in no small part to the excellent organisational

Thompson's controversial late goal seals Carlton win



CARLTON 2

Moreira 12, Thompson 85

CANBERRA COSMOS 0

Friday night at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd: 2,677



Carlton's Archie Thompson: his goal five minutes from time sealed the win for the home side against Cosmos. Pic by Michael Cronin

By Kevin Christopher

Well, it wasn't pretty. And that goes for the weather as well. To say Olympic Park was rain-soaked would be putting it mildly yet Carlton did enough to overcome the conditions and earn all three points against a Canberra side which struggled to break down the excellent three man Carlton defence.

After six matches the Blues have conceded just two goals, both of them attributable to errors of judgement by goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis, and as long as Dave McPherson, Sean Douglas and Craig Deans continue to remain fit then the Blues will be very difficult to beat.



Cosmos sub Glenn Kolpak

While the clinching goal five minutes from time had a controversial genesis there was no doubting the home team were the better side on the night, yet for over an hour Canberra battled hard enough to suggest an equaliser was not beyond them.

Carlton poured on the early pressure with John Markovski, starting for the first time this year, particularly keen to get for-

ward from his role 'in the hole' behind Mike Conroy and Alex Moreira.

In the fifth minute Moreira was brought down by Cosmos 'keeper Grant Barlow inside the area but the fact the Brazilian went down a little too easy may well have influenced New Zealand referee Derek Rugg's decision.

Just two weeks ago Rugg sent off two Canberra players in the match against Parramatta, and why he would be appointed to another Canberra match so soon should perhaps be looked at by SocAus.

Undeterred, the home side then forced eight corners in a five minute spell which had Canberra living on a knife-edge.

The incessant pressure finally paid dividends on the eighth corner when a deeper ball allowed Moreira to read the ball better than Robbie Hooker and direct a header inside the back post from around eight metres out.

Carlton could have added to the lead before half-time with Conroy missing perhaps the best of them, set up by Moreira who had dragged Barlow out of position.

Conroy will be a very relieved man when he finally gets off the mark, although he should be content in the knowledge that he is responsible for creating a number of good opportunities for his team.

Jason Polak, Daniel Watkins, Michael Musitano and Ivo De Jesus were all involved in the visitors' attacking forays at various times although they struggled to break down the aforementioned defensive trio.

It was left to David Milin on the half hour mark to force Anastasiadis to tip over a long range effort after a 40 metre dash down the left flank.

The conditions prevented high-quality passing in tight situations and the best chances came from solo bursts from midfield. Toplica Popovich emulated Milin's run then went even closer when Polak and Milin contrived a chance but the ball hit him rather than the other way round when he was just six yards out.

The introduction of crowd favourite Archie Thompson with thirty minutes remaining provided the spark for the home side to push on for the killer second goal.

After being ill for most of the week and only getting medical clearance on the day, he made an immediate impact, barging past Robbie Hooker and sprinting 40 metres with the ball before running too wide and leaving himself with little of the goal to aim at.

He made amends five minutes from time when he scored from what both coaches later agreed was a dubious decision. Grant Barlow had sent a long clearance up the ground, only for McPherson to head the ball back 40 metres toward Archie Thompson, who was clearly in an offside position. David Milin attempted to clear the ball but whether he got a touch on the ball didn't matter to Thompson who raced away to win the one-on-one with Barlow.

At the post-match press conference coach Tom Sermanni was clearly upset.

"At the end of the day these really,

very, very poor decisions are potentially costing you the game, and potentially costing you your job, if you're the coach.

"But I don't have a quibble with the result. We knew we were going to have a tough game, it turned out to be a tough game."

Stuart Munro on the other hand was just pleased that his players had learned to be more circumspect in their decision-making.

"I don't think Canberra expected us to hit them on the break so much tonight, they probably expected to play a game where they hit us on the break.

"I said to the players, 'Let's just be patient, let's keep possession' and all of a sudden there was space. I thought



Former Glory boy Craig Deans. Is part of a mean defence at Carlton

every time we broke forward, especially in the first half we really caused them problems and I don't think they expected that type of game."

With Markovski's return providing an alternative to Lupo Lapsanky at set pieces

MATCH STATS



CARLTON: Anastasiadis, McPherson, Deans, Douglas, Marth, Atkinson, Moreira (Thompson 60), Lapsanky, Conroy, Markovski (Terminello 77), Packer.



CANBERRA: Barlow, Hooker, Milin, Popovich (Purdue 77), Burt (Kolpak 72), Polak, Winnie, Watkins, Musitano (Prenzowski 75), Hamilton, De Jesus

Yellows:

Carlton: Lapsanky 30

Canberra: Milin 54, Burt 67, DeJesus 92

Best Players:

3 - DEANS (CARLTON)

2 - McPherson (Carl)

1 - Lapsanky (Carl)

Referee: Derek Rugg (NZ)

and the continued improvement of Andrew Packer, Carlton may well overcome the injury losses of Stuart Slater (2-3 weeks) and Joe Tricarico (2-3 months).

The fixture planners were hardly kind to the Blues in a promotional sense, with their first three home matches against teams which all finished in the bottom four last season.

But it has enabled them to get off to a successful start to the season, and as Munro pointed out, their early season success has not exceeded expectations.

"If it had been better than expected we would have won six games in a row."

The real test may come next week when the Blues travel to Brisbane.

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Marconi's brilliant second half breaks Newcastle

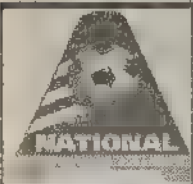
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 2

Buonavoglia 65, Dodd 67)

MARCONI STALLIONS 3

S. Babic 14, Trajanovski 69, Invincible 90

Friday night at Breakers Stadium, Newcastle. Crowd: 4, 473



By Michael Kmet

"You can't put an old head on young shoulders". Those words must haunt Lee Sterrey week in week out as his Breakers' team yet again conceded points in the dying minutes of a game.

The Breakers were sitting on a 2-1 lead in the second half, yet came away with none after a 90th minute blast by Danny Invincible sunk the home team's hopes.

Sterrey was left to lament on another game that got away. "To fall on our own sword after being 2-1 up is gut-wrenching", Sterrey said. "The boys deserved more on that second half performance. Two years ago I used to listen to John Kosmina (former Breakers' coach) say the same words when he was in Newcastle. This was that old Newcastle side in an old Newcastle defeat. At the end of the day the boys have got to show more experience."

The Breakers played their usual counter-attacking football - happy to give

Marconi possession in their back two thirds, but squeezing the Stallions when they went any further. The difference this week was the Breakers' poor defensive marking through which the Stallions capitalized with each of their three goals.

Sterrey while happy with his team's performance was critical of this area. "We practice all week to set a trap in which Marconi have to play the long ball, and when they did we make the mistake of conceding a goal."

Sterrey was referring to Marconi's first goal in the 14th minute in which Zelko Babic was left unmarked from a long through ball by Chad Gibson, and showed his usual class by chipping Bob Catlin.

The first half followed a similar pattern. Marconi had most of the possession and pressured hard with their mobility - particularly the energetic Babic who showed he is more than worthy of Soccerroo selection.

The Breakers as usual were dangerous through the counter attack with the dynamic attacking duo of Buonavoglia and Harper. In fact, it was Harper who found space through a breakaway in the 24th minute. However, Stallion keeper Michael Turnbull saved Harper's shot.

Minutes later Newcastle's Vasko Trpceviski nearly converted a 25m free kick after Chad Gibson fouled the skilful midfielder. Trpceviski's dipping and swerving strike crashed against the crossbar, and had Turnbull well and truly beaten.

The second half was a continuation of the second. The Stallions were causing problems through Babic and midfielder Darren McDonald, and the Breakers were counter-punching.

This was until the 62nd minute when Sterrey replaced Tancheski for Wieczorek. This seemed to spark the Breakers into new life.

Three minutes later a great ball by Trpceviski found Buonavoglia on the right. Buonavoglia cut inside Brendan Renaud and cracked a left foot drive past Turnbull to level the score line.

The Breakers were

enjoying their best passage of play and it was no surprise two minutes later when the Breakers hit the lead. Tancheski switched play to cross to a vacant Harper on the left. Harper was quick to switch the play back and find Travis Dodd just outside the 18-yard box on the right. His right foot drive gave

Turnbull no chance.

The Breakers were punished by a lack of concentration in the 69th minute when a Stallions corner found an unmarked Trajanovski at the far post. Catlin saved Trajanovski's shot but the ball rebounded back to Trajanovski who this time made no mistake.

Despite this set back the Breakers continued to attack through a new found vigour. In the 72nd minute a Tancheski cross found Harper whose header sailed over the crossbar.

Ten minutes later Harper was amongst the action again. An accurate through ball by Buonavoglia was laid to Harper who was clumsily tripped by Marconi's Mike Smith, and referee Mathew Breeze had no hesitation in

MATCH STATS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Catlin Pryce Roberts, McManus Sprod, Dodd (Zonc 85), Wilson Buonavoglia Wieczorek (Tancheski 62) Trpceviski (Angleski 76) Harper

MARCONI STALLIONS

Turnbull Gibson, Care, McDonald Karl 93, Z Babic Maione (Marchesini 79) Smith Invincible, Farah, Renaud, Trajanovski

(Zonc 85)

Yellows

Breakers: Roberts 53, Wieczorek 61 Stallions: McDonald 16 Z. Babic 88

Best Players

3 DARREN McDONALD

(STALLIONS)

2 Zelko Babic (Stallions)

1 Andy Harper (Breakers)

Referee: Matthew Breeze

awarding a penalty.

To the dismay of the Breakers crowd Shane Pryce weakly shot his penalty to the right and was saved by Turnbull.

This was the first time in living memory that Pryce has missed a Breakers' penalty.

As the clock struck the ninety-minute mark Mike Smith turned from villain to hero when his thirty-yard ball found a free Danny Invincible who drove the ball home and gave Marconi a rare three away points at Breakers Stadium.

Stallions' coach Eddie Krncevic was ecstatic with his team's victory. "I'm very happy to take three points away from Newcastle. Not many teams will do that this year. It was a good second half by Newcastle. We were in trouble but got out of jail. Lee (Sterrey) made some good changes and Newcastle were unlucky not to come away with any points."

One of Marconi's best Darren McDonald praised the tenacity of his teammates. "We have a bunch of fiery lads and to fight back the way we did was brilliant. We knew that the Breakers would fire against us, but we got the points and that's what counts."

Newcastle news

Breakers' utility Adam Sanderson underwent surgery this week to repair a broken kneecap after he suffered a horrendous injury last week at training. Sanderson knee collapsed after he was executing a shooting drill. The popular member of the Breakers' squad looks to be out for the rest of the season.

The Breakers new website is certainly impressive. Administered by internet company Hotlinks, the site is large and has options such as Breakers Web mail, chat, as well as all the information on players and games. Visit www.breakers.com.au Talking of web pages there are two brilliant unofficial sites run by long time Rowdies Chris Dunkerley and Steve Bradbury. Check out www.ozemail.com.au/~kevrenor.nb.htm and www.bigpond.com/srbrad/. These sites give an excellent supporter's perspective of the Breakers.

Breakers' coach Lee Sterrey and owner David Hall will fly to Great Britain this week in a bid to bolster the squad. Sterrey will be targeting midfielders - an area where the Breakers have been weak.

The University of Newcastle Soccer Club's application for the NNSW 2nd Division - the 2HD League, has been successful after a meeting by the NNSW Soccer Federation board two weeks ago.

This has been a meteoric rise by the club who were competing four divisions lower five years ago. University will fill the position vacated by Budgewoi who have entered the Central Coast competition.

In the Youth game before the seniors:

Newcastle Breakers 3 (Mitchell Johnson, Paul Wheeler, Joshua Rufo) Marconi Stallions 0

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Foster and Strikers too good



PERTH GLORY 1

Despotovski 44

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2

Dwyer 6, Foster 50

Sunday afternoon at Perth Oval, Perth. Crowd 14, 077

MATCH STATS



GLORY: Franken, Trajkovski (Afkos 78), Harnwell, Miller, Naven (C), Carbone, Wehrman, Ergic, Halpin, Boutsianis, Despotovski (Kalogeracos 45)

Subs Not Used -Valle



BRISBANE STRIKERS: Bolton, Ditton, Meredith, Bell, Pilic, Davidson, McLaren, Dwyer (Baldwin 84), Harris, Grierson, Foster

YELLOWS

Glory-Harnwell 19min, Boutsianis 83
Brisbane-Meredith 17min, McLaren 33min, Foster 75min

BEST PLAYER

3-PAUL FOSTER

(BRISBANE STRIKERS)

2-Brad Ditton (Brisbane Strikers)

1-Ivan Ergic (Perth Glory)

Referee: Brett Hugo

This was the game where many expected the Strikers to finally be out-classed by better opposition ... this was not to be

Along with Wehrman, Afkos and Kalogeracos were brought into the squad at the expense of a very out of form Alistair Edwards and Hamilton Thorpe.

Glory coach Bernd Stange played Scott Miller as a central defender and his usual leftwing back position was taken by youngster John Carbone

Top Brisbane recruit Paul Foster started the match up front with Peter Dwyer giving the Brisbane Strikers.

The game got off to a flyer for the Glory with Carbone having an early shot on goal which was deflected for a throw.

This early domination was the end very quickly when David Pilic for the Strikers broke free from the midfield and fired a perfect cross for Peter Dwyer to head in past Tony Franken after only just six minutes.

After eight minutes Despotovski had a chance to score but sprayed his shot very wide in what is becoming an all too familiar finish for the top striker.

Brisbane knew Glory's tactic of playing the long ball and were coping well.

After 15 minutes some very skilful work by Wehrman found Despotovski once again but his shot missed once more skidding across the face of goal and out for a goal-kick, signaling more groans and insults from the frustrated Glory crowd

Soon after Despotovski was clear but was tripped by a hard working Nick Meredith which resulted in a booking.

Glory were slowly getting back into the game, the wing-backs were getting more crosses in and Wehrman had taken like a duck to water to his new club.

After 19 minutes a cross into the Glory box set Harnwell with a chance but he was too slow, the keeper Bolton taking the ball but copping an elbow from Harnwell in what was really a sending off offence (the tall defender only escaped with a yellow.)

On the 22-minute mark Brad Ditton had a clear shot on Franken's goal but was blocked by a quick thinking Scott Miller (who was not very convincing in central defence), the rebound fell for Meredith but it went over the bar

Ditton had two more chances on goal and was causing headaches but simply could not break through

Carbone on the left side was having a war with Harris and was feeling the affects of his first full game for the Glory this season, but was coping well enough.

On the 36 minute mark a cross was put into the Brisbane box, Franken tried to punch away but only just got it away by about two meters, the ball fell to Pilic who had no-one in the goal area to get the ball past but somehow his shot deflected off a

Glory player and was cleared.

Glory had 3 more attempts on goal and 2 corners before Wehrman passed to Boutsianis who had worked hard, 'Bootsy's' shot deflected off a defender right into the path of Despotovski who slotted the ball easily past Bolton in the 44th minute.

In injury time Ivan Ergic ran past four defenders and only had the keeper to beat in an amazing run but slotted the ball just wide.

Despotovski was taken off at half time with a sore ankle, which had been from two crunching tackles, both resulting in bookings.

Vas Kalogeracos came on to huge applause but never really made a mark on the game.

Glory set up a golden chance for Bousianis in the 48th minute but it was headed over the bar in an absolute sit-ter.

Two minutes after a freekick into the area and Foster easily rose to head the ball in, simply too easy for the Strikers.

After this goal Glory started simply passing long balls to the wingbacks hoping to cross to a lonesome Kalogeracos up front.

Trajkovski put in pathetic cross after pathetic cross. He is a Soccerroo and a class player but his finishing leaves a lot to be desired, the Glory forwards simply were not getting the crosses to put past Bolton.

Kalogeracos was booked for a lashing out at Meredith and was subsequently getting more and more frustrated.

In the 78th minute Rob Trajkovski was taken off for Afkos.

Peter Dwyer made way for Wade Baldwin in the 83rd minute with Glory still trying to throw down long balls through the wingbacks to little or no effect.

The joyous yelling of the Brisbane players at the final whistle over a silent Perth Oval almost symbolized the game. They came, they won, they silenced.

In the post match press conference Strikers coach John Kosmina said that he always told his players to go out and enjoy themselves, not to be intimidated by big crowds, big egos or big reputations (all things the Glory certainly have).

Glory coach Bernd Stange was very straight to the point and almost snarly with the media saying that "Without a win we have to pay the consequences with out team selection for next week" and "We had a great chance but we are very disappointed not to win."

Stange also defended his team selections saying he needs to develop his youth.

Looking at the result of today's game it is easy to say that Kosmina's Brisbane Strikers team has already been developed - they have team spirit and the desire to win without the massive pressure, something the likes of Perth Glory simply don't have.



Ergic and Wehrman were standouts in the midfield for the Glory they tried to push forward through most of the game, the latter not showing any signs of his injury.

For the Strikers it was an all-round top effort. Paul Foster leading the way with his gritty determination and muscle up front, something which got the better of the cocky Harnwell.

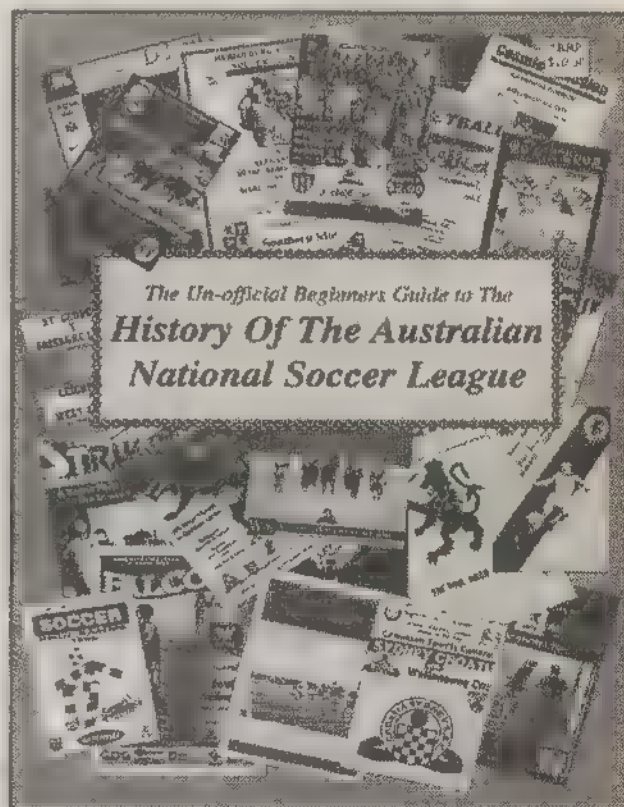
A day where home ground advantages and egos were shot down.



By Dennis Gedling

The many fans at Perth Glory did get their mony's worth despite the result. Glory came into this game without a home win to its name and were lucky to escape from Canberra with a point after Brazilian Edgar was sent off last week.

In for his first game of the season after a knee injury was boom recruit Kasey Wehrman.



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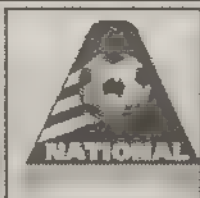
Weak Spirit thrown to the Wolves

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3

Petrovski 1, 33; Young 62

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

Sunday night at Brandon Park, Wollongong. Crowd 5,123



MATCH STATS:

WOLLONGONG

WOLVES: Pogliacomi, Souris (Dimech 79), Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid, Young (Dimoski 86), Chipperfield, Harlock, Spencer (Surjan 83), Petrovski.

NORTHERN SPIRIT:

Perosh, Enes, Langdon (S. Cranney 62), Rudan (Moss 45), Casserly, Seal, T. Cranney, Bilokapic (Farla 55), Sobczyk, Saad, Crook.

Yellow Cards

Wollongong Wolves: Young 85
Northern Spirit: Rudan 42, Bilokapic 43

Best Players

3 - CHIPPERFIELD (WOLLONGONG)
2 - Petrovski (Wollongong)
1 - Cervinski (Wollongong)

Referee: Eddie Lennie

By Stephen Webb

The scoreline flatters Spirit. This reporter clocked Wolves' first goal at the 35-second mark. By the end of the first half alone the home team created enough good chances to have scored six goals.

Northern Spirit were on the proverbial ropes from the start and missed their two really decent chances.

Their vocal travelling fans came armed with capsicums to lob at local taunters (a good humoured response to the capsicum spray Spirit's fans copped from the constabulary on their previous trip south). But they were stunned to silence almost straight from the kick off.

Spirit put the ball out at the first whistle. From the throw Wolves set Chipperfield running at the Spirit defence. He chipped over to Petrovski who had little trouble opening Wolves' account. Wolves almost ran the ball at will towards the Spirit goal; quick, first-time passing allowing the strikers to take turns setting one another up.

Ian Crook, returning to Northern Spirit's central defence, must have wondered what he'd gotten himself into. Wollongong's fast attacks kept Spirit under pressure. Clearances mostly resulted in loose balls that gave the home team more opportunities to raid Spirit's penalty area. On five minutes Perosh was extended by a Harlock cross from the left.

Five minutes later defender George Souris frightened him with a drifting cross from the right corner.

Northern Spirit had a good chance to equalise in the 11th minute when Troy Cranney crossed to Saad unmarked in front of goal. But the veteran striker only managed to head over the crossbar. Six minutes later Saad was the provider and Seal the villain. Saad crossed from the

right and Seal stooped for a header which also sailed over.

Most of the action remained in the other penalty area, however. First Horsley put Petrovski through, then Young was given a chance to run at goal. He couldn't beat the last man but the ball fell to three Wolves players waiting to let one fly at Spirit's goal. The shot only smacked into Perosh's chest.

Reid and Spencer both ran strongly from midfield, taking on the defence and, with deft touches and smart one-tvos, made it look embarrassingly easy.

Cervinski and Stanton mopped up balls Spirit hoicked in their direction and Horsley battled with Langdon and, later, the fast Anthony Faria down the right flank.

It was a raid down the right that gave Petrovski another chance in the 31st minute. Chipperfield pulled a tight ball back from the goal line for Petrovski who slashed it outside the near post. Minutes later he was on target.

A Spirit free kick for a Cervinski foul on Saad went straight to Pogliacomi reaching high. The quick clearance upfield came to Horsley who headed on to Petrovski who put Wolves two goals up. In the 39th minute Young had a free header at the near post from a Reid corner, but put it wide.

A minute later Petrovski headed into the ground and wide from a Chipperfield cross. Soon it was Petrovski bewitching defenders and returning the favour to Chipperfield who also shot wide.

Rudan then had his name taken for bringing Chipperfield down as he ran from the right toward the penalty area.



Harlock's left-foot free kick caught Perosh by surprise. As half time approached another Rudan foul on Chipperfield gave Wolves a free kick which found Petrovski again in a scoring position - but again he struck wide.

The second half wasn't as one-sided. Pogliacomi had to make some saves.

But Wolves didn't stop attacking.

In the 51st minute Chipperfield missed a header at the far post after Horsley turned his defender and crossed from the right. Six minutes later Young missed a sitter when a fortuitous ball left

him with just the keeper to beat.

But the Englishman was soon heading his first goal at Brandon Park when a Chipperfield cross from the right found him unmarked at the far post.

He won a corner from a near-post header late in the game when Petrovski crossed after a long run down the left touchline.

A Horsley-Spencer combination set Chipperfield up for a header over the crossbar and in time added on Harlock almost put Dimoski through.

For Spirit, Seal had one good break but his team-mates - and Wolves' rapid recovery - left him with no options. Crook had a half-hearted shot, Enes had a shot, and, in the 72nd minute, Pogliacomi had to dive to save a shot through a sea of legs following a Northern Spirit corner.

Ten minutes later he was diving to hold a cross from Sean Cranney and it was a Sean Cranney shot which made him leap high for a catch in the 90th minute.

Sobczyk was one reason Wolves didn't put more away. He made several important interventions, notably tackles on Chipperfield in the 38th minute and on Reid early in the second half.

Another saving grace was Crook's tireless legwork and his attempts to marshal the defence and, in the second half, get Spirit's midfield working.

If Graham Arnold has a future at Northern Spirit some of his senior players may find they don't.

Visibly shaken and glassy-eyed after being routed at Wollongong, Arnold decried his team and the way they "leave all their talk in the dressing room".

Failing again, despite some different approaches, he said, "You'll see more younger players on the field from now on."

Young players he thought worth

mentioning this week were Sobczyk and Faria.

Conversely, he resented the amount of work Crook had to do. "We've had our careers," he said of himself and the veteran defender. He said it was tragic to see Crook doing what he had to do; to see a 37-year-old putting ten kilometres on the pitch when the younger players didn't.

He said, "You give name players the benefit of the doubt. But you can be patient for so long. I think I've been more than patient."

Arnold said he felt sorry for Northern Spirit's supporters. "We have the best supporters in Australian soccer. No-one gets away support like Northern Spirit."

Asked if there was anything positive he could draw from the game, he said, "Wollongong played well."

"Following a 3-0 win, Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos could afford to be generous - and humble."

"Spirit," he said, "contributed to Wolves' victory just as much as we played well." The early goal, he said, gave Wollongong a distinct advantage.

The Wollongong coach was "humble and subdued". He said it was a solid victory and that he was relieved but the players wouldn't get carried away.

Yet upon hearing other results from the round, he said, "We played Auckland off the park [the previous week]. We shouldn't have let them get near us." Then he allowed the possibility that Wolves were "in a bit of form".

But Theodorakopoulos was more concerned about the future of the young North Sydney club. "We need Northern Spirit to succeed for Australian soccer to go forward. We can't afford to lose its crowd or its names. We can't afford for Northern Spirit to fail."

One goal seals game for United

SYDNEY UNITED 1

Arrarte 30

ADELAIDE FORCE 0

Sunday night at Edensor Park, Sydney. Crowd 3,987



MATCH STATS:



SYDNEY UNITED:

Hughes, Younis, J. Moric, Bosnar, Kupresak, Savocca, Rastall, Arrarte, Moric (Deak 63), Pondeljak, Zec (Racker 82)



ADELAIDE FORCE

Knezevic, Hassell, Kim, Costanzo, Zelic, Cartwright (Kemp 77), Sabljak, Vidmar, Veart (Day 63), Pelosi, Mori.

Yellow Cards

Adelaide: Veart 3, Kim 36, Vidmar 58, Zelic 62, Pelosi 66

BEST PLAYERS:

3. PONDELJAK (UNITED)
2. Costanzo (Force)
1. Arrarte (United)

Referee: J. Blaney

By John Vrtaric

It was a very different Adelaide Force that ventured onto the field against an equally unfamiliar Sydney United on a sunny Sunday evening in the western suburbs of Sydney.

The Force still had the master coach Zoran Matic at the helm but there was no Milan Ivanovic or Alex Tobin at the heart of their defence, nor was Jason Petkovic behind them in goals.

United, of course, are a totally new side with players from the State League, cast offs from other clubs and a couple of quality recruits that coach David Ratcliffe is trying to mould into a winning combination.

Both teams have had a slow start to the season with one win each in the first five games of the season.

The evening was perfect for football - a cloudless sky, a moderate temperature and a six o'clock start making it a great night out for the family.

The football, unfortunately, was far from perfect. The quality of football on display was evidence of why the two teams are struggling.

Mind you, the standard of football on offer at other grounds in Sydney this season has not been that much better. And that by teams with squads of full time professionals.

Having already lost one this season Adelaide Force trooped onto the field with a new import - a trend that is on the increase this season as evidenced by Marconi and Carlton.

Marconi has had little success with their two Italian imports while Carlton seems to have done somewhat better with their 'Brit Pack', although both teams have an import out injured at the moment.

Though one does want to be hasty in making judgement on the Force's new-comer, one Claudio Pelosi, after only one game, the early signs are not good.

Pelosi showed very little on the field to indicate that he has the qualities to be a success for Adelaide, even taking into account that it was his first game in this country.

It was a very scrappy first half with very few occasions when more than two passes were strung together by either side.

What few opportunities there were on offer were only half chances usually created by defensive errors rather than creative play.

In the eighth minute an Ante Moric cross from the left reached Matthew Zec who was left unmarked in the penalty box but his weak header was cleared away for a corner which itself was safely defused by the home defence.

One minute later United's right wing-back Ray Younis picked up a loose ball in defence, beat his man and ventured forward where exchanged passes with little Tom Pondeljak and found himself in the Force's penalty box.

His receipt of his team-mate's pass lacked the expert first touch and he lost the opportunity to cross the ball with a defender blocking his attempt. The rebound ended up at the feet of Younis for a second time but his tame shot on goal hit the side netting.

In the 14th minute Pelosi had his first opportunity to show the Australian audience his football talents. A deep cross from Nick Sabljak was headed back across the goal mouth by Damian Mori to the lurking Pelosi who had the time and space for a volley from a position just outside the penalty box and right in front of goal.

His attempt, though, did not produce what might be expected from a quality import as he completely missed the ball and had an 'air shot' instead.

In the 21st minute Adelaide's other import, left wing back Dong Ki Kim found himself with the ball just inside the United

half from where he sped past his opposite, Younis, and took the ball wide on the left to the edge of the penalty box.

His square cross from there found Mori just outside the box where he controlled the ball well and took it further in-field past his opponent looking for space to aim at goal. He found the space he was looking for but his chip-shot aimed at the top right hand corner of Brett Hughes' goal



was too high.

A minute later Pelosi had his most 'productive' action of the game when he lifted his foot to control a ball and which the grand old man of the United defence, Velimir Kupresak, attempted to head but found Pelosi's studs instead.

Kupresak enhanced his reputation for courage by playing strongly for the rest of the game with his head swathed in a bandage while Pelosi meandered through the balance of the game.

Ten minutes later, in the 31st minute, the best move and the only goal of the game arrived.

An interplay on the left between Pondeljak and Moric saw the latter deliver a pass to striker Zec who flicked the ball with the outside of his right foot into the path of young Nahuel Arrarte who collected the ball just outside the Force's penalty box and calmly placed the ball into the top left hand corner of Vilson Knezevic's goal.

Adelaide had two opportunities to equalise before the closure of the first period.

In the 39th minute a defensive clearance found Carl Veart wide on the left with the time and space to look up to see the defence moving forward so he chipped the ball across the goal to the far post where Bradley Hassell came from deep on the left.

The pass was perfect but Hassell's attempted control of the ball on his chest

wasn't and his attempted shot was blocked.

The second chance fell to Adelaide in the first minute of injury time a Michael Cartwright cross from deep on the right eluded all and bounced past the far post where Veart returned back across the goal with the outside of his right foot to the waiting Mori.

Last year's leading striker had the time pick his spot with his header but proceeded to head it straight to Hughes.

In the second half United tended to retreat somewhat and play a more counter attacking game allowing the Force to, at times, dominate possession of the ball but the visitors did not have much of an idea of what to do with it.

They had a couple of chances late in the game when they had plenty of possession and seemed to come alive to some extent.

In both instances young replacement Matthew Kemp was involved - he provided the crosses from the right which, in the 86th minute, a Mori header was well saved by Hughes and, in the 92nd minute, another header went narrowly over Hughes' crossbar.

In an uninspiring game such as this it is hard to players to stand out and only Pondeljak and, to a lesser extent, young Arrarte showed some creative talents while Kupresak was his usual inspiring defensive rock for United and Costanzo was equally solid for Adelaide.

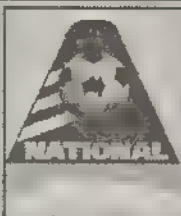
Coveny double but Tsekinis stars

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3

Anastasiadis 59; Coveny 71, 83

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

Sunday night at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne Crowd 7,693



MATCH STATS:

SOUTH MELBOURNE

T : Udvaracz, Iosofidis, Orlic, De Amicis (c), Blatsis, Panopoulos, Clarkson (Goutzioulis 68), Tsekinis, Magnacca (Liparoti 84), Anastasiadis (Coveny 68), Curcija.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:

John, Banini, Nastevski, Vargas, Magdic, Kiratzoglou (Vassallo

70), Susa, Kovacevic (c), Reda, Cervinski, Trupkovic. Subs not used: Urlovic, Rajher.

Yellow Cards:

South: Clarkson (8), Magnacca (68). Knights: Susa (15), Trupkovic (53).

Best Players

3. JIM TSEKINIS

2. Con Blatsis

1. Adrian Cervinski

Referee: Brian Precious.

By Alan Clark

In what for many years has been Melbourne's most keenly contested fixture - the derby game between South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights - was running true to form with a tight and scoreless first half, but burst into life from the hour mark after which time South scored three times without reply to notch up another comfortable home win.

The scoring began when John Anastasiadis netted with a spectacular header after a clever diagonal ball was struck by Jim Tsekinis on the right perfectly for Fausto de Amicis on the left who in turn crossed sweetly to Anastasiadis at the far post.

It was a move completed with such speed and accuracy that it would have caught out the best defence.

But the next two were much more defensible. Vaughan Coveny - only introduced to the action from the substitute's bench three minutes beforehand - extended the lead heading home a long Nick Orlic free-kick which Knights' keeper Martin John came for but never reached, after 70 minutes.

And as if to point out to coach Ange Postecoglou that he should be on from the start in South Melbourne's next match, the big Kiwi wrapped up the game with his second, seven minutes from time, also from a header.

Knights' keeper John would not have been pleased with this one either, as Coveny out-jumped him from a starting start inside the six-yard box to convert a well-flighted Tsekinis cross from the right.

South coach Ange Postecoglou had left Coveny out of the starting eleven in this game as in the last against Marconi in an attempt to spark him up.

"Vaughnie played the first four games. He was working hard enough, but he wasn't getting into the right areas to score goals

"I felt we needed to take him out of the action. I was hoping that last week he'd come on and maybe get a goal and (regain) a bit of confidence, but it didn't work out - but it did this week."

"He's obviously a very good player and he had a great season for us last year. Hopefully he'll get some confidence from that. John Anastasiadis (who was brought off for Coveny) had an hour and is getting stronger, and he got a goal as well.

"The key to our success is that we have a number of forwards who score goals regularly."

So what had promised so much for the struggling Knights, matching their more highly placed rivals for all of the first half, had come to nought, and will cause Knights' well-respected coach Joe Biskic to wonder what it will take for Knights' previously fearsome reputation to be restored.

"We can't afford to give away anything (at home) from now on, otherwise we'll be in deep trouble," said a disappointed Biskic after the game.

"We did really well in the first half - I was really pleased", Biskic said. "But we made some errors at the back, and that's what cost us the game."

Biskic didn't want to point the finger at young goalkeeper Martin John, thrust into National League action as a result of the controversial early-season departure overseas of Knights' Olyroo keeper Joe



Melbourne, you need a bit of experience, and we haven't got that - that's why we fell."

South Melbourne's experience quotient was close to being reduced when midfield-general David Clarkson was lucky to escape a second booking 39 minutes in, after an off-the-ball clash with Adrian Cervinski right in front of the referee, the stand-side assistant, and the fourth official.

Clarkson had been booked early in the game, and it was a surprise to find the incident produced no further card. As Clarkson is such a key player in the South's almost endless stream of hard-working midfielders - Jim Tsekinis - who was to stand out in this encounter.

Often Tsekinis has only a cameo-role to fill, entering the contest as a second-half substitute for one of South's marquee-name players - Goran Lozanovski, Paul

Trimboli, or Vaughan Coveny - all internationals of repute, and often rested after their initial involvement had made a game safe for South.

This time Tsekinis started - the continuing absence of Lozanovski and

Trimboli somewhat forcing Postecoglou's selection hand - but he grasped his opportunity with alacrity and flair.

Tsekinis' involvement was critical in the first and last of South's goals, and Postecoglou was full of praise: "I thought he did really well - he had a hand in two goals, and also had to work very hard defensively for us. I thought he had a very good game."

It had taken a while for Tsekinis to settle in at South since his transfer at the beginning of last season from the now defunct Adelaide Sharks.

Tsekinis had been a key player at Sharks, despite his youth, and found himself a new boy at a club where he struggled to get game time during his first season.

But his enthusiasm and keenness to do well never dimmed, and he will now surely be a more regular name on the team-sheet.

For Knights, Cervinski was lively up front, often drawing South's tall defenders out of position and creating space for others, as well as delivering finely-judged flicks and passes.

In the first half especially, Cervinski and Zelko Susa looked dangerous when in possession, but too often Knights moves would break down as a result of the Knights players' desire for an extra touch, when an earlier delivery might just have sprung the lock.

Maybe there's been a reduction of Knights' self-belief after the last few seasons which look so bare in comparison to those of just four or so years ago.

But in the end it was South's relentless possession play combined with its extraordinarily good home record and its deeper playing squad which won the points for South.



Didulica, but clearly he rued John's inexperience which played a part in Coveny's double.

"I don't want to criticise him. He's still young, he's got his future (in front of him). (But) when you play against South

Kingz for a day: first win in Australia

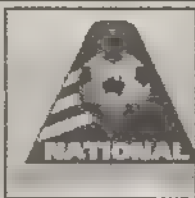
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

Cardozo 80, pen

FOOTBALL KINGZ 2

Ngata 79, Vichelich 83

Sunday night at Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney Crowd 4,



MATCH STATS:

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Bouhoutsos; Tsekenis, Baillie (Kalantzis, 78), Juric, Wilson; Thomas, Phillips (Zorbas, 46), Emerton, Mendez, Cardozo, Arambasic (Carle, 46 (booked, 50))

FOOTBALL KINGZ

Batty; Perry (booked, 46), Bunce, Vichelich, Stergiopoulos; Jackson, Ngata, Osman (Jones, 81),

Mennillo (booked, 60); de Jong (Moya, 90), Silva (Middleby, 73)

Best Players:

3: H. NGATA (KINGZ)
2 A. Juric (Olympic)
1: D. Mennillo (Kingz)

Referee: Simon Micallef



By Jeremy Ruane

A well-drilled performance by the Football Kingz at Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday gained its just reward, as they overcame third-placed Sydney Olympic 2-1 to climb to eighth on the National Soccer League table.

At the same time, the result has given the Kiwi sports fan a welcome boost of confidence, after a week in which the results recorded by both the country's rugby league and, particularly, rugby representatives failed to do justice to the plentiful amounts of media coverage afforded them.

As spectacles go, it wasn't the greatest soccer game you will ever see, largely due to a playing surface which was far from conducive to flowing football, and which, in all honesty, isn't suitable for any match at this level in its present form.

Much of the match was punctuated

by a multitude of misplaced passes by both sides, a situation arising directly from the state of the pitch.

It resulted in a very disjointed affair, which neither side appeared to enjoy to any great extent, and with justification aplenty.

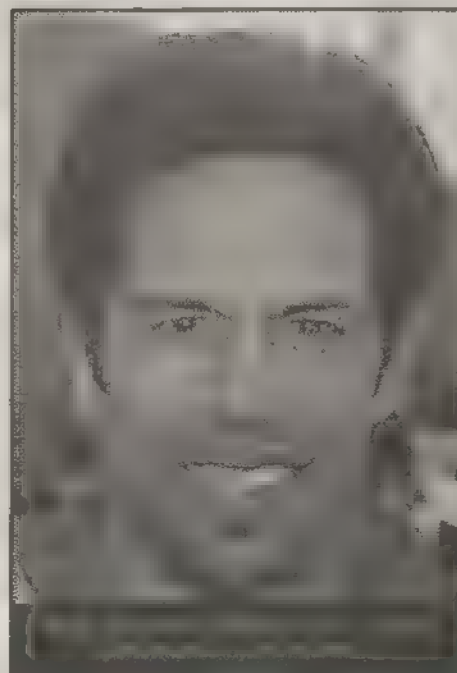
Aside from a twenty-five yarder from Harry Ngata in the fifth minute, which George Bouhoutsos gathered well low to his left in the Olympic goal, and a twenty yard effort from Ante Juric struck straight at Jason Batty on the half-hour, the first thirty minutes were largely barren of goalscoring opportunities, or any really creative play of note.

As the first half wore on, however, the Kingz looked the side more likely to open the scoring.

Levent Osman, put through by Dino Mennillo, squandered a glorious opening in the 32nd minute when the pitch intervened, while a sweeping left-flank raid featuring Ngata, Marcus Stergiopolous and Ivan Vichelich resulted in the last-mentioned's deep cross six minutes later being sent soaring over the crossbar by Chns Jackson, who had more time than he realised to make the most of the opening.

Mennillo's rasping drive - Fred de Jong and Ngata prompted this 42nd minute chance - and deflected shot - Aaron Silva's deft turn and precise through ball invited this stoppage time opportunity - kept the Olympic fans on edge till the interval, as the visitors' cohesive play stifled anything the locals could muster in the first spell, reducing them to a couple of long-range efforts which with Batty dealt with most comfortably.

Much of what had been good in terms of Kingz attacks had emanated from the left flank during the first forty-five minutes, but that all changed in the second spell, the result of two half-time substitutions made by Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina.



Peter Zorbas, in particular, made a significant difference to the shape of the game for the home side, and provided Stergiopoulos, most notably, with a lot



more defensive work in the second half, particularly in the first twenty minutes of the spell, in which the Kingz were very much on the back foot.

That said, Olympic carved out just one clear-cut chance in that time, Peter Tsekenis and Gabriel Mendez combining to provide the team's leading scorer, Pablo Cardozo, with the chance to add to his account for the season.

Batty was alert to the danger, and was quickly off his line to narrow the angle, as a result of which Cardozo was forced well wide of goal, meaning Olympic's best chance to date was lost.

The Kingz weathered the storm, and struck back with a vengeance.

In the 76th minute, Mennillo and de Jong combined on the right, with the former curling in a wicked cross with which the Olympic defence failed to deal. Osman ghosted in on the blindside of the defence, and crashed a volley past a startled Bouhoutsos, only to see cannon to safety off the crossbar.

Olympic failed to heed the warning, and paid the price three minutes later. Jackson danced past three challenges on the left before laying the ball back towards Ngata.

From twenty-five yards, he let fly with a first-time screamer which crashed into the top right-hand corner of Bouhoutsos' goal, the custodian beaten all ends up by a smashing strike which seemed certain to be the match-winner, given the general tightness of the encounter.

Within sixty seconds, however, Olympic were level, Cardozo sending

Batty the wrong way from the penalty spot, after substitute Chris Kalantzis had been felled in the box by a clumsy challenge.

This stirred the locals into life once more, and Zorbas was narrowly astray with a twenty-yarder two minutes later, after Cardozo held off a sturdy Che Bunce challenge to set up his team-mate.

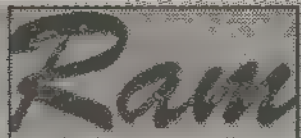
But the natives were well and truly silenced in the 83rd minute when Olympic failed to deal with Mennillo's inswinging free-kick from the right, and made the cardinal mistake of allowing Vichelich time and space in which to pick his spot from ten yards.

The pony-tailed defender's header bulleted home to put the Kingz 2-1 in front, a scoreline they maintained to the end, thus securing them their first win on foreign soil.

In other Kingz news ... their fans watched the Olympic game on TV after SKY Television announced that it has reached an agreement with Prime Television to become its free-to-air broadcast partner for the upcoming matches of the Football Kingz, reported the New Zealand Weekly Soccer Observer.

SKY Sport will broadcast both home and away games LIVE, with Prime screening them on a delayed basis.

"This partnership is an opportunity to reinforce our support for New Zealand soccer by making it available to as many New Zealanders as possible," commented John McCready, Director of Programming and Marketing, SKY Television.



INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



NSWIS INFLECTS FIRST LOSS ON AIS

Richard Beazley reports that the NSW Institute of Sport team outplayed the Australian Institute of Sport in their "derby" match on a bumpy pitch at Valentine Park on Friday evening. NSW always lifts for this match each season and it was a more committed NSW side that took the three points.

In a match played at a fast pace and in wet conditions the NSW team pressured from the start of the game and were rewarded with a well taken goal in the 12th minute by Peter Gavaghan.

Under constant pressure the AIS struggled to play to their normal high standard and were guilty of holding onto the ball for too long which allowed the NSW players to put pressure on their opponents and on several occasions gain possession.

The 1-0 lead taken into the break was increased 10 minutes into the second half when Brett Holman's 55th minute shot went over the line courtesy of the bottom of the left had upright and past a despairing dive from AIS goalkeeper Peter Wood.

It appeared that the 2-0 scoreline would stand as the final result until an injury-time strike by Holman from a corner-kick took the score to 3-0.

To add insult to injury AIS defender Mark Graham was sent off for his second caution, although it could be said that he was very hard done by to get his first caution for a 50-50 shoulder-to-shoulder challenge earlier in the second half.

For NSW former Joey Tallan Martin played well in midfield as did Holman, while ex Australian Schoolboy International goalkeeper Matthew Nash pulled off two superb saves during the second half which could have brought the AIS back into the match. The AIS were best served by striker Tommy Bajurin who worked hard throughout the match, Beren Sullivan and Todd Brodie.

NSW: Nash, Carrera, Rosier, Bojic, Lewin, Carney, Gavaghan, Avanes, Martin, Holman, Petrovski (Engele 79).

AIS: Wood, Bryett, Graham, Mrkela, Sullivan, Brodie, Cvetanoski, Vasilevski, Last, Demourtzidis, Bajurin.

Chris Conti reports that on a very humid Sunday afternoon Marconi Colts entertained the ACT Academy of Sport at Marconi Stadium.

The crowd which had earlier watched the Marconi Youth team play the Germany U17 squad as part of the German's preparation for the U17 World Cup to be held in New Zealand later this month watched two of the younger National Youth League sides play some attractive football.

The ACTAS, which won the game 3-0, was the more efficient of the two teams, and was a shade more experienced. However, for the first fifteen minutes Marconi and ACTAS both created chances.

In the tenth minute Amied Shadmaan, the Academy's strong left-side defender floated in a good centre which striker, Goran Veljanovski fluffed. The Marconi defence should have been punished, but the best chance of the first thirty minutes fell to Marconi's Philip Badolatu who missed an open goal after some excellent approach work by Stane Pakrajac.

The ACTAS skipper, Matt Jullienne was working very hard in midfield and could have been rewarded in the 28th minute when Jullienne's fierce shot from outside the penalty area struck the foot of the Marconi post.

At the other end Pakrajac again cleverly set up Badolatu, but the chance went begging again. Shortly after, the ACT side's Carl Valeri and Adam Williams combined with Paul Ivanic whose shot

was well saved by the Marconi custodian, Daniel Schwarzer, who was the busier of the two keepers. Schwarzer was unable to save Veljanovski's shot after some good lead up work by Jullienne and Williams.

Pakrajac forced a save from the ACTAS keeper, Rade Kosanovic and ACTAS went to the break leading by the one goal.

In the second half the inexperienced Marconi Colts tired more than the Canberra team, and, predictably, ACTAS scored two more.

Two minutes into the half Shadmaan sent Jullienne away on the left, and Jullienne's centre was turned goalwards by Valeri and not even an attempted flick by Veljanovski could propel the ball into the net. Veljanovski was then set up by Jullienne but he lobbed the ball over the bar. In the 62nd minute,

Veljanovski returned the favour but Jullienne could not capitalise on the opportunity. In the 70th minute Veljanovski and Valeri provided Williams with another opportunity that was, again not taken.

Soon after Marconi's striker, Rod Sandovac produced an unstoppable shot which, unfortunately for him, only found the side netting.

Daniel Aliffi, the Marulan speedster, who had replaced the tiring Paul Ivanic, mis-kicked a shot and the ball fell to Veljanovski who scored his and his team's second goal, after the Marconi defence had failed to clear the ball.

Immediately after this incident Sandoval was put through a static ACT defence by Alex Brosque - Kosdanovic came out to block a shot and Sandoval's shot agonisingly trickled past Kovanovic but hit the upright.

Marconi's spirits were not with them on this day, as, with ten minutes to go, Pakrajac was taken off and Marconi, who had used their quota of subs, had to play for the remainder of the game with ten players.

In the 80th minute ACTAS scored their third goal: Williams took a corner on the right, and floated a lovely ball in to the goal area - everyone watched the ball except Aliffi who attacked the ball and headed it past Schwarzer.

ACTAS finished the game in complete control, but Marconi's young colts will improve during the season.

ACT Academy of Sport: Rade Kosanovic, Adrian Labutte, Amied Shadmaan (Rohan Coleman), Phil Yamold, Dom Labutte, Stephen Kemp (Matt Anstey), Adam Williams, Matt Jullienne (c), Goran Veljanovski, Carl Valeri, Paul Ivanic (Daniel Aliffi).

Subs not used: Ian Waldon.

Marconi Colts: Daniel Schwarzer, Adrian Catanzariti (Daniel Rohrer), Jason Baron, Evan Graham, James Chirlop, Adam Burnett, Adnan Papaluca (John Peros), Philip Badolatu, Stane Pakrajac, Levi Hilton (Alex Brosque), Rod Sandovac.

Subs not used: Ryan Manuel, David Conte.

Best Players: ACTAS: Yarnold, Labutte, A, Veljanovski.

Marconi: Pakrajac, Schwarzer, Sandovac.

Stephen Webb reports that Wolves international Alvin Ceccoli's first game in three months for the Youth team against the Spirit Youth team was a good step in his recovery from a knee injury.

Still not fully fit and lacking touch, Ceccoli displayed some of his characteristic aggression and made some important tackles from left back.

The game was Northern Spirit's, however. The visitors were clearly the superior outfit and generally ran the game

at their pace. They competed better for the ball and their tall defenders made life impossible for the smaller Wolves forwards who seemed to have no confidence on the ball.

Snyder was often in the action and in the 19th minute combined with Kane to give Kane a shot that forced a typical diving catch from Beltrame.

It was a clever Snyder run through the Wolves' defence in the 44th minute that set Northern Spirit up for its winning goal. Ceccoli stopped Snyder but the ball flew left to MacRae for a crack a barely protected goal.

Wolves almost had a chance to equalise a minute later but dwelled too long on the ball in the Spirit penalty area.

Nine minutes into the second half, Catanzaro skilfully pulled the ball back for Kathel who crossed to Monie whose lobbing header saw Beltrame running backwards to tip it over the bar.

Snyder hit a low shot calling for a reflex save from Beltrame in the 70th minute, while at the other end Wolves hit a free kick past the upright and Lucas shot high and wide.

In the 81st minute Ceccoli, having brought himself more into the game, ran down the left side and crossed to Zelvis who missed a close range header on the far post.

Five minutes later, Catanzaro found himself well positioned with the ball on the edge of the Wolves area but shot straight to Beltrame.

On 90 minutes Bishop, who'd been having a pretty sad game for Wolves (like many Wolves players, wasting balls, not weighting passes properly), crossed from the corner for Aldridge to drop a gentle header down to Henderson.

And, back to the other end, Beltrame collected from the feet of Aldridge's opposite number, James Monie. Cunico was one of Spirit's best in the second half. While Ceccoli's experience and strength was evident, fellow defender Steven Markovski was Wolves' man of the match.

WOLLONGONG: Beltrame, Velovski, Ceccoli, Dimetrevski, Rodrigues (Lucas 74), Markovski, Ashley (Southwell 72), Aldridge, Nicholson (Dellis 54), Bishop, Zelvis.

NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Prentice (Brickell 62), Snyder, Olic, Monie, Kane, MacRae, Catanzaro (Antar 87), Kathel, Cunico, Culina.

YELLOW CARDS: Spirit: Prentice 17; Monie 90+
RED CARDS: Wollongong: Bishop 90+.

Roy Hay reports from the Southern Division that an extraordinary game was played at Bob Jane Stadium, where South Melbourne beat Melbourne Knights by five goals to nil.

Coming into the match the Blues had lost both opening games conceding five goals and scoring one, while the Knights had won two, scoring seventeen and giving away only three.

When striker Jovanco Novacevski was sent off for allegedly punching an opponent one might have expected the Knights to run away with the game, but it was South Melbourne which dominated the match thereafter.

The early stages had seen Jasmin Sehic and Anthony Pelikan sting the fingers to South keeper Chris Jones, but then Andrew Mashorian found himself unmarked in the Knights penalty area when Mustafa Mustafa picked him out with a cross. Mashorian's header looped over Dale Barbuto to put South ahead in 12 minutes.

Eight minutes after the break, Mashorian came in from the right and though Barbuto got a hand to the shot he could not prevent it squirming slowly over the line.

(Continued on Page 22)

NORTHERN DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| A.I.S. | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 4 | 15 |
| Parramatta Power | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 1 | 15 |
| Northern Spirit | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 10 |
| Sydney Olympic | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 10 |
| Northern Spirit Colts | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| A.C.T.A.S. | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 8 |
| Q.A.S. | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 5 | 7 |
| N.S.W.I.S. | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| Sy. Olympic Academy | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 6 |
| Wollongong Wolves | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| Newcastle Breakers | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 6 |
| Sydney United | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| Sydney United Colts | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 4 |
| Marconi Stallions | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| Woll Wolves Colts | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 1 |
| Marconi Colts | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 1 |
| Breakers Colts | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 0 |

SOUTHERN DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Carlton | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 9 |
| Melbourne Knights | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 8 | 6 |
| VIS | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Gippsland Falcons | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| Bulleen Inter Kings | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Fawkner Blues | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| South Melbourne | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| South Dandenong | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Albury Wodonga | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 1 |
| Knights Academy | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Preston Lions | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 0 |

NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

Newcastle Breakers 3 - Marconi Stallions 0
Johnson 21', Wheeler 58', Rufo 87'

N.S.W.I.S. 3 - A.I.S. 0
Gavaghan 12', Holman 55', 87'

Sydney United 3 - Sydney United Colts 0
Sario 47', Lo Protto 53', Junij 63'

Sydney Olympic 1 - Northern Spirit Colts 1
Miot 85' Majurovski 40'

Wollong Wolves 0 - Northern Spirit 1
Macrae 42'

Marconi Colts 0 - A.C.T.A.S. 3
Veljanovski 37', 74', D Aliffi 80'

Newcastle Colts 1 - Olympic Academy 3
Tomich 3' pen Pansi 53', 82 88

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

Albury Wodonga 3 - Gippsland Falcons 5
Griffith, Martin, Jones Stojanac 2, Cassar, Mustec McDermid

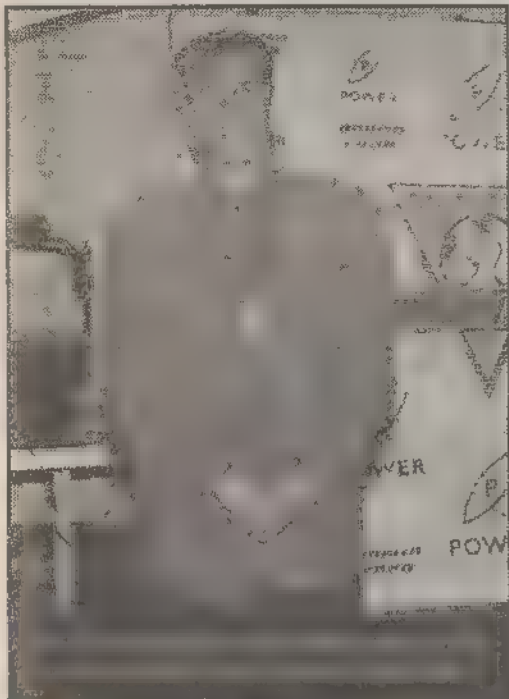
Preston Lions 0 - Fawkner Blues 4

South Melbourne 5 - Melbourne Knights 0
Mashorian 3, Psonis, Ovcin

Knights Academy 1 - Carlton 3
Majer Erdogan, Tolios, Martin

Bulleen Inter 0 - VIS 4
Chillico, Terek, Tsiolias, Sekulovski

Sydney's where it's at, says Eddie K



By Greg Blake

A world footballing journeyman for the best part of two decades, Eddie Krncevic will still insist that he's a Melbourne boy "through and through."

But he's always looked more a Sydney guy than Melbourne and that's why he just looks so comfortable at the thoroughbred stables of Australian soccer at Marconi Stadium.

He likes the fit, too. And he's already chanting the Olympic city mantra.

"I've got to say that Sydney is where it's at as far as soccer is concerned," says the former Carlton coach dubbed 'Smooth' by the local media.

On a three-year contract back at the club which was his springboard into the overseas market back in the early 1980's, Krncevic isn't overawed by Marconi's almost rabid hunger for success, and its intolerance for anything less.

"We all know what this club is about," he says assuredly.

"The last time we won the championship was six or seven years ago (1992/93), so it's a long time between drinks for a club like this one."

"To be honest, I wouldn't have taken the job if I didn't know what I was walking into."

"It's a big club and I'd probably have to say that it is still the best club in Australia."

"Let's put it this way, I'm pretty glad to be here."

For good reason, not the least of those being the opportunity to get some immediate distance between himself and Carlton.

The romance between the experimental Victorian outfit and its original coach, Krncevic, was sullied somewhat when Carlton started its ignominious losing streak mid-way through 1998/99.

The ties were severed acrimoniously and with much undignified finger-pointing at the end of the campaign.

The breakdown still rankles privately but Krncevic treats the subject matter-of-factly.

"Oh yeah, Carlton," he grins.

"There are no sour grapes from me there. I mean you just get on with it, don't you

"I believe everything happens for a reason and the Carlton job was a good experience for me."

"I learned a lot of things and those things will make me a better coach."

Surprisingly the indignity of getting flogged 4-0 by his former club - and at home, no less - in round three is lost on Krncevic, who believes the result was a timely wake-up call.

"We played all right in the first two games and I think some of the boys maybe thought it was all a bit too easy", he explained.

"I mean you don't want a 4-0 game like that, but at the end of the day that's football."

"I just try to turn it into a positive."

"It's better to lose 4-0 in one game than 1-0 in four games, isn't it?"

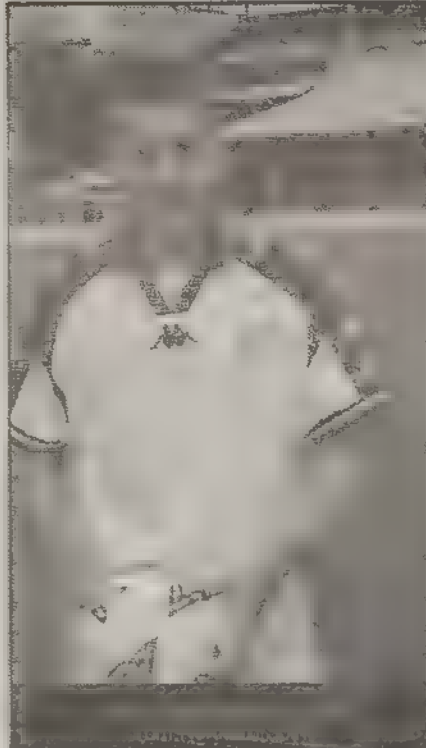
Leaping into Australian soccer's epicentre at high-profile Marconi won't have harmed his national coaching team aspirations either.

But that's out of his hands, with the more immediate task facing Krncevic, that of a taxing 34-game schedule ahead for the Stallions.

"I'm pretty fortunate in that I've got a good bunch of boys here to work with who are now starting to find their feet," he said.

"It's a long season but I think I've got the makings of a pretty solid team."

'CROOKY'



tain killer instinct.

In England we have players like Paul Ince, Roy Keane (even though he plays for the Republic of Ireland) and David Batty. They are known "hardmen" and they will throw themselves into everything.

Australia seems to be full of them and I believe having a player in that mould is essential to the success of every team.

Last season South Melbourne were by far the best team in the National Soccer League and David Clarkson filled that role beautifully.

He was one of the reasons they did so well and the impetus for the drive that set South Melbourne apart from most sides in the NSL.

In saying that, hunger and desperation on the football field is something that can not be coached and is something that can not be manufactured.

It is in-bred!

You can coach a team to play with flair, you can coach a team to play attacking football or even negative football but it is very hard to instill a killer instinct.

Luckily for football in this country there are plenty of those boys around and it can only help in the rapid improvement of football in this country and Australia's

stature on the world stage.

Players like Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka will win Australia matches and guys like Robbie Slater and

Pablo Cardozo can do it in the NSL but without a driving force from the middle of the park individual brilliance will not win matches regularly.

Football is all about consistency and consistency is born out of a desire to do your very best every time you set foot on the football field no matter what the conditions, no matter what the situation and most importantly, no matter who you are playing!

Ian Crook

Northern Spirit and England

Guesting this week in the Northern Spirit weekly column is one of the NSL's greatest exports. He has played for England five times and played over 500 games in the English League with Spurs and Norwich. One of his highlights was playing in the side that beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the UEFA Cup. He is known to the fans as 'Crooky' or 'Chippy'. Over to you, Northern Spirit's Ian Crook...

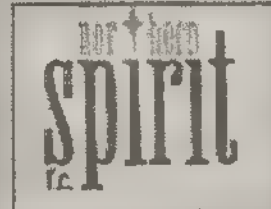
Since I have arrived in Australia more than 14 months ago I have been amazed with the never say die attitude of the Australian players.

Arnie tells me "It's the Australian Way".

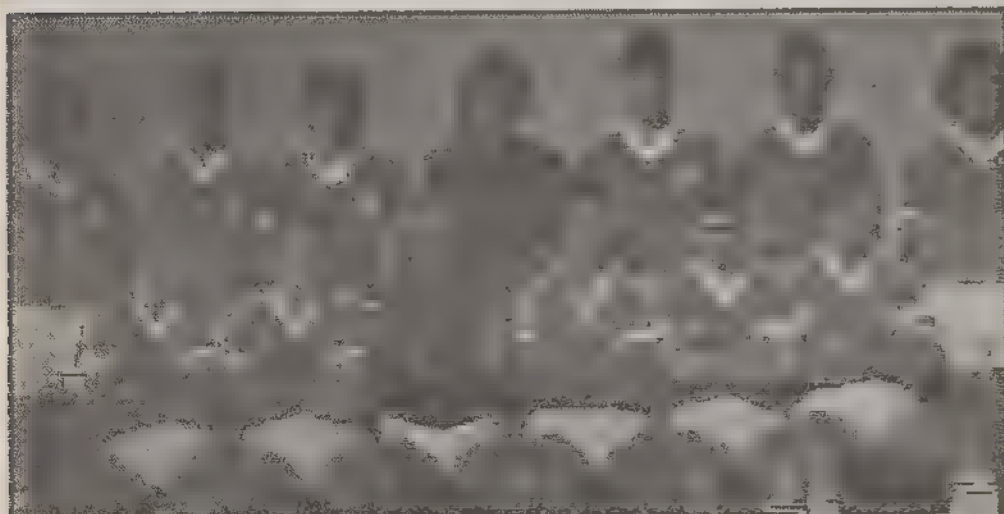
I was lucky enough to represent my country, England, five times but I never came across Australia or Australians as a player until I played in Japan for a year with San Frecce.

It was in Japan that I first came across Arnie as a teammate. I was impressed with his never say die attitude on the field and assumed that was just Arnie and the way he played.

Then I arrived in Australia and every week we come up against teams with players that have that cer-



Spot the NSL coaching team



Welcome to the NSL in 1985. A decade of dodgy haircuts and tight strips. This is South Melbourne. In amongst the Steve Blairs, Charlie Egans and Oscar Cinos is a very successful coaching team in the NSL of 1999. Can you recognise who they are? Answer is on page 22.

Next week:
Olympic's
MARCUS PHILLIPS
with
Melissa Muscat



We're improving, says Tann-Darby



By Anissa Tann-Darby

Australia went into this game with an extremely positive attitude after our performance in the first game.

We were able to dominate the Chinese from the start and our new found confidence was rewarded in the 7th minute when Katrina Boyd curled a ball behind the Chinese defence and Sunni Hughes was able to bravely knock the ball past the Chinese keeper.

substitutions paid dividends when we scored in the 80th minute through Cheryl Salisbury. Unfortunately we were unable to reduce the deficit anymore.

The Matildas were disappointed with the result when we knew that the scoreline didn't depict the closeness of the game. However, all members realise that this is just the beginning and since we have only been together for about six weeks the improvement that we have made in this time has been fantastic.



Australia continued to press forward, but the Chinese were able to level the score in the 15th minute.

Another lapse in defence meant that we went in at half time one down.

Australia started the second half the same way we had started the first and things were looking promising until against the run of play the Chinese were able to score from a corner when an unmarked Liu Ying was able to volley from close range and score her second goal.

Just three minutes later, the Chinese were able to score again, when Qui Hai Yan's attempted cross deceived Tracey Wheeler and flew into the top far corner of the goal.

Four substitutions were made in an attempt to add some spark to the team and give some valuable playing experience to some of the younger players. Chris Tanzey's

Team: Wheeler, Garriock(Wainwright 46), Salisbury, Tann-Darby(Heppertlin 67), Bartlett, Forman, Small(Duus68), Wilson,Boyd(Ferguson 65), Black, Hughes(Golebiowski 65).

Score: China 4- Australia 2 (game two or Chinese tour)

Scorers: China Liu Ying 15min
Australia: Sunni Hughes 7min Zhang Ouying 41 min Cheryl Salisbury 80 min
Liu Ying 58 min Qui Hai Yan 61min
Xiamen Stadium
Crowd 15,000

JULIE MURRAY SCORES FIVE!

In the Ansett Summer Series a remarkable 7-0 result was the highlight of the weekend that began on Friday.

Northern NSW Pride put seven past the unfortunate Victoria Vision.

And it was Matildas Cheryl Salisbury, Sunni Hughes and Alison Forman who did the damage - Hughes the standout with four goals including a triple in the first 15 minutes of the second half before she had to leave the park with a leg injury.

Tracy Barker was the other scorer for NNSW Pride.

In other games QAS Sting drew with SASI Pirates 1-1. The South Australians scored through goal-machine Sharon Black while Belinda Dawney nabbed the Queenslanders' goal in the 54th minute.

Queenslanders Kim Revell and Olivia Hohnke each hit the crossbar

in the game.

League leaders NSW Sapphires drew 2-2 with Canberra Eclipse.

In the Sunday round of games, Aussie

Superstar Julie Murray (above) bagged an extraordinary five goals as the NSW Sapphires thumped the hapless Victoria Vision 5-0. Twelve goals in two games is a disastrous finish for the Blues.

In other Sunday games for round nine, SASI Pirates beat NNSW Pride 2-1, with Sharon Black scoring again while the QAS Sting won 5-1 with Belinda Dawney scoring a hat-trick.



Garriock's the future

By Anissa Tann-Darby

Sixteen year old NSW Institute of Sport star Heather Garriock fulfilled one of her dreams this month when she came on as a sub for the Matildas against China.

Garriock had been called the previous week into the Australian Institute of Sport for a camp, but never contemplated that a week later she would be playing against China.

"I was ecstatic, when Chris Tanzey said 'Right Heather you're on' it happened so quick.

"The feeling was indescribable, running out on the field playing against one of the best teams in the world. A lifetime dream and goal had finally come true," she said.

Her soccer career started at the tender age of five when she played for the Leppington Lions Football Club.

After seven years with this club she moved up to the Police Youth Club in the First Division even though she was only thirteen years of age.

After an outstanding season she was targeted by the illustrious Marconi Club and spent the 1996 season in Reserve grade.

The NSW Institute of Sport coach Connie Selby was quick to notice her potential and drafted her into the inaugural National Summer league squad even though she was only 14.

Garriock's soccer success was also reflected throughout both the school system and the NSW Women's State League, where she was selected in 1995 to attend the prestigious soccer program at Westfields Sports High.

Australian Schoolgirls selection was to follow with tours to the United States and New Zealand.

Outstanding performances for Marconi Reserve grade saw her promoted to the Division one team.

However, throughout 1998 Heather found herself out of the NSWIS team and playing for Marconi.

A number of problems throughout '98 saw her out in the cold and her future was temporarily put on hold.

Marconi once again offered her a lifeline and after securing the Women's Super League Player of the year award in '99 her future was once again back on track.

She was selected in the NSW U/19 state team that travelled to Darwin this year and brilliant performances at this particular tournament did not go unnoticed by National coach Chris Tanzey.

Named in the 1999 All-Stars Team, national team selection didn't seem to far away.

After a very solid start to the national summer league for NSW, Chris called her into camp.

Although the youngster was only in camp for three days she was able to show that although only 16 her potential was enormous.

Initially, she had been hoping for a few minutes in China, but when Bridgette Starr sustained a broken nose her debut was fast tracked and she couldn't believe it when she went on in the 22nd minute.

Garriock was able to fill Starr's shoes and did not look out of place even though this was her first taste of international football.

The second game against China saw Garriock start and although taken off at half time her contribution over both games proved that she had a maturity far beyond her years.

This player's future is extremely bright and her goal now is to secure a position in the Australian squad.

She is determined to push for inclusion in the Olympic squad however if she is unable to achieve this she has set her sites on the 2004 Olympics and the 2003 World Cup, which she hopes will be in Australia.

Although only 16 this great young player is proving that she will have a lot to say in regards to the successful future of the Matildas.

Dean Anastasiadis INSIDE CARLTON with Daniela

By Daniela Raco

Success in the current climate of Australian soccer is dependent upon big names, sponsorship and marketing.

Touted as being 'Melbourne's first mainstream soccer club', Carlton entered the league with a professional squad, and a large working budget necessary to merchandise the club's image.

With a new home at Olympic Park, the Carlton hierarchy believes a new location will broaden the appeal of the club and attract a strong supporter base.

But, as the team continues to perform well on the park, does this ultimately determine the regularity with which the turnstiles continue to click over for the Blues?

The rock around which their fortress is built is Dean Anastasiadis. I asked the man of steel to provide the necessary ingredients that makes the team successful on and off the park.

When it comes to dress sense which team-mate is stuck in the 70s?

Andrew Marth - if it wasn't for his wife he would have no idea. Adrian Cagalj - he likes his flares.

Which one of the following three could you not live without? 1. Soccer

Ball 2. TV Set - with remote control. 3. A woman

A woman!

Do you have hidden talents?

I'm a good Elvis impersonator, and I'm a bit of a gymnast (back-flips).

Who has the most unusual nickname in the team?

Stuart Slater - 'Sammie' no one knows why. Alex Moreira - 'Bazza' because it's easy to pronounce.

What do you consider to be the most striking feature in a woman?

Her eyes and smell.

If you could have box seats at any event in the world, what would it be?

Monaco Grand Prix.

Which member of Carlton's squad is most likely to be caught dancing on a podium at a nightclub?

Archie Thompson - the king of swing.

What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

That they're all thick.

On interstate trips which team-mate do you refuse to share a room with?

Andrew Marth, because he is too loud and leaves you with no options...??

Which member of the squad has the best set of wheels?

I do - BMW 325

How do you spend Saturday nights?

1. Card game with the boys.
2. Telly with your parents

3. Quality time with your girlfriend.

4. On a podium at 'HEAT' nightclub.

5. None of above - enjoy your own company.

Option three - quality time with the girlfriend

Who would tip Cleo's most eligible bachelor list?

Mark Atkinson, because he is all class.

Where would you rate?

Top five.

Which team-mate is most likely to rise early on a Sunday for church?

Mike Conroy - he sticks to Diet Coke.

If you were to star in a Hollywood movie, who would be your leading lady?

Madeleine Stowe and Leticia Casta.

What would you consider to be a romantic night out?

Fish and chips on the beach in St Kilda on a balmy night.

Has this ever been played out?

Yes

Which team-mate is the coach likely to invite home for a lamb roast?

The British guys - Dave McPherson, Stuart Slater and Mike Conroy.

What is the best (or perhaps worst) excuse you've heard someone use for missing training?

Mine - 'I got caught speeding and lost my licence'.

David Della Rocca - 'My mum didn't

wake me!

Which team-mate is likely to walk past Hungry Jacks and feel compelled to walk in?

Joe Tricarico

If Carlton's grand final hopes relied on a penalty in injury time who would be calm under pressure and step up to the line to take it?

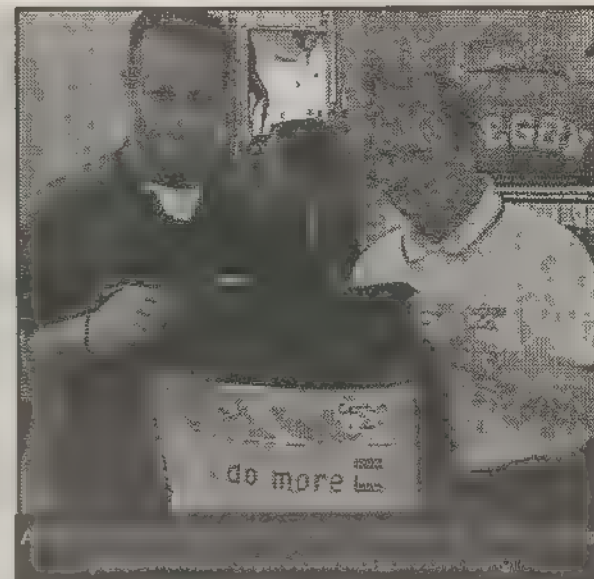
Marth or Atkinson, because their years of experience means they don't freeze up.

Do you have a winning technique for scoring off the park?

No, I'm still trying to find it.

If you were to return home late one night and see three messages on your answering machine from your mother, your girlfriend and your coach, Stuart Munro, each requesting that you return their all, who would you contact first - in order of preference?

1. Stuart.
2. Girlfriend
3. Mum



The Power of Juan

By Aidan Ormond

Falcons striker Juan Nilo's first season in the NSL has been a sweet homecoming. The Santiago-born 24-year-old arrived in Australia as a child of seven in 1982, and moved with his family to country Traralgon within close proximity of his current club's ground Mobil Park.

However, he ended up playing with the Chilean-backed side South Wernbee before he returned to play as a 16-year-old in the Falcons youth team at the start of the 90s (ironically coached by Nilo's current teammate Manny Gotis).

Unable to break into first team football - he says he felt he needed first team football at the then Morwell Falcons - Nilo made the move to Melbourne where he played for a succession of Premier League clubs while living down there.

For many in the Gippsland area that was the last they heard of the Romario lookalike striker.

But the NSL was always Nilo's goal, so he toiled in the relative anonymity of Victorian Premier League football while working in a succession of part-time jobs.

Many would have given up on playing in the NSL.

He began at Springvale City, then Sunshine Georgies before his third club, Bentleigh Greens saw Nilo take off.

He scored 22 goals for the Greens, including three hat-tricks.

The name Juan Nilo suddenly kept cropping up in the off-season, a time when Melbourne's NSL coaches are scouring the Premier League for that rare nugget.

One of those coaches was Falcons' Jeff Hopkins. Newly installed in the position after the move by popular Scot Stuart Munro to Carlton, Hopkins knew he had a side that could defend stoutly and play without the ball, but the perennial problem was a striker.

The 'Bush Bullet' Archie Thompson had left for Carlton as had Joe Tricarico; the cupboard was looking bare upfront at Gippsland.

It was the perfect time for a return to Gippsland for Juan Nilo; he badly wanted to prove himself at NSL level while Jeff Hopkins badly needed a striker.

Nilo's performances in the pre-season Blue Ribbon Cup confirmed he has what it takes to play for Falcons.

Peter Kakos, the VPL top-scoring striker with 23 goals, has also joined Nilo at Falcons (ironically the striker who scored 21 in the VPL, Harry Karl, has also signed

with an NSL club, proving that there are players to be found at state level.)

And now he is playing full-time Nilo could not be happier.

"It's all I want to do," he said while in Sydney preparing for last Friday night's game at Parramatta.

"Training and playing soccer full-time is my dream. I am living at home which is good too (he laughs). Mum does all the cooking and cleaning so all I do is concentrate on my soccer. We have morning and afternoon sessions, I just love it."

And the NSL standard has impressed the nippy little striker. "A lot of defenders aren't just going in hard, they are skilful too. It's fast and quick. Some of the top NSL would do well against Chilean sides like Colo Colo."

He has however been back to Chile over the years but hasn't formally approached a club. "There is a lot of politics involved in the clubs and who plays for whom," he observed ruefully.

Still, the bottom line is goals and he is yet to get off the mark this season. "Yeah, in a side that doesn't create too many chances you have to take them when they present themselves."

Falcons' in-form central defender Manny Gotis says Nilo's story is inspiration



for all kids in the Gippsland area. "It's very difficult for local kids playing in the Traralgon league to make the step up to the national soccer league. The NSL is just too strong."

"That is why Juan's story is so good. He went away and made a name for himself in the Premier League - and he ended up top scorer at Bentleigh Greens last season. From there he has been picked up by his hometown NSL club and he is reaping the rewards."

"He's a credit to himself and his attitude is first rate," notes Gotis.

And as many relative unknowns would attest, Gippsland is the perfect club to prove yourself at NSL level. That's why a Falcons side is always full of guts and determination.

Just ask Parramatta Power.

FIFA UNDER 17 WORLD CUP - NEW ZEALAND



By Nick Guoth

Tomorrow will see the Opening Ceremony of the 1999 FIFA Under 17 World Championship at the North Harbour Stadium in Auckland, New Zealand.

It is the beginning of two and a half weeks of soccer spread over four venues through both islands of New Zealand. The Final will also be at North Harbour Stadium on Saturday November 27th.

Sixteen teams have made it to these final stages and they were placed into four Groups of four teams, each Group at a different venue. Teams will not have to travel between venues during the qualifying rounds (see full draw page 22).

The four venues being used for the Championship are North Harbour Stadium in Auckland, Maclean Park in Napier on the East Coast of the North Island, the QE II Stadium in Christchurch and Carrisbrook in Dunedin.

The four Groups are:

| | |
|---|--|
| Group A Venue: Auckland New Zealand USA Uruguay Poland | Group B Venue: Napier Ghana Spain Mexico Thailand |
| Group C Venue: Christchurch Brazil Australia Mali Germany | Group D Venue: Dunedin Jamaica Burkina Faso Paraguay Qatar |

The Top 2 teams from each Group, following a series of Qualifying Rounds, will play off in the Quarter-Finals. The top team from each Group will stay at their Qualifying venue, whilst the second placed team will travel to the nearest venue.

So Auckland and Napier will crossover whilst Christchurch and Dunedin will do the same.

The winner of the Auckland Quarter-final will play the winner from Christchurch, in the Christchurch Semi-Final whilst the other two winners will travel to Auckland for their Semi-Final.

The Third-Place Playoff and the Final will both be held in Auckland at the North Harbour Stadium on Saturday November 27th.

The 1999 FIFA Under 17 World Championship will be the 8th ever held. It will be the first to be played in the Oceania region; the last FIFA event being the 1993 World Youth Cup in Australia.

The inaugural Under 17 Championships were held in China in 1985. Since then the event has travelled the globe with the Championships being played in Canada (1987), Scotland (1989), Italy (1991), Japan (1993), Ecuador (1995) and Egypt (1997).

Unlike their Full International counterparts, African countries have dominated

these events. Both Ghana and Nigeria have won twice, and in all but one final Africa has been represented.

The other three winners of the Under 17 Championships were USSR, Saudi Arabia and Brazil. Brazil are the current holders of the Championship and are also regarded as the favourites for this upcoming event.

The event format has remained the same for every Championship. There are 4 groups each producing 2 teams qualifying for the Quarter-Finals.

Australia has never had any fortune in this event, having been knocked out in the Quarter-Finals five of the six times they have qualified for the finals. Australia were not represented at the Egypt 1997 Championships as New Zealand won the Oceania Qualifying event in Christchurch.

In 1985 at China, Australia defeated Argentina, Congo and Germany to finish top of Group B. In the Quarter-Final they were defeated on penalties 4-2 by Guinea after the 0:0 deadlock could not be broken. Germany were eventual the beaten finalist, whilst Guinea lost in the 3rd Place Playoff.

Notable Australian players in 1985 were George Bouhoutsos, Dave Barrett, Paul Trimboli, Gareth Naven and Craig Foster.

The next tournament was held Canada in 1987, where the Australians were located in Montreal.

Here they defeated Saudi Arabia and Brazil but lost to France. Even with the loss the other results went Australia's way and they ended up top of Group C.

In the Quarter-Final Australia lost to Nigeria 0:1 (0:0). Nigeria went on to lose the Final to the USSR on penalties.

Representing Australia were the likes of Matthew Bingley, Mark Bosnich, Dominic Longo and Steve Horvat. Notably Bosnich was the reserve keeper with John Russel given the Number 1 jersey.

Scotland in 1989 was a championship to forget for Australia as they finished last in Group B following losses to Germany DR and Brazil and a draw with the United States.

Those in Scotland included Mark Schwarzer, Steve Corica, Zelko Kalac, Mark Babic and Tony Popovic.

Still in Europe, the 1991 Championships were held in Italy. Australia played their qualifying games in Carrara. Again the Joeys were top of their group, Group B. They won matches against Mexico and Congo but lost to Qatar. The Quarter-Final was held in Viareggio, home of the famous Youth Tournament, and Australia lost to Argentina 1:2 (0:1). Argentina went on to win the 3rd Place Playoff against Qatar.

Notable inclusions in the side were Tom Haythornthwaite, Paul Agostino, Craig Moore, Paul Dee and Vas Kalogeracos.

In 1993 the Championships moved to Asia and were held in Japan. Australia had a tough group, but were able to reach the Quarter-Finals after finishing 2nd on goal difference over Argentina. They drew with Argentina, defeated Canada, but lost to Group B winners Nigeria.

In the Quarter-Final they lost 0:1 after extra time to Ghana. Ghana went on to lose the Final to Nigeria, which should show that this Australian team was one of the best.

Amongst the representatives at this Championships were Hayden Foxe, Joe Tricario, Andrew McDermott, Paul Bilokapic and Andy Vargas.

The last time Australia appeared in the World Under 17 Championships was in 1995 when they were held in Ecuador. In

Group C, they finished 2nd on goal difference over Spain with Nigeria taking out the group. Australia opened with a draw against Spain which was followed by a loss to Nigeria and a win over Qatar.

The Quarter-Final in Portoviejo was against Brazil and after a tied first period the Australians lost 1:3 (1:1). Brazil went on to lose the Final to Ghana, a result that was reversed in Egypt in 1997.

Australia go into the 1999 World Under 17 Championships with the need to break through the Quarter-Final barrier that has caused them so much grief.

In a tough group, this will be a hard ask.

Australia has had a long and tedious campaign to reach the 1999 World Under 17 Championships.

Last December major preparations began with a 24-man squad including three overseas players being invited to camp in Sydney. Since then it has been a hard slog with continuous preparations for the opening match this Friday against tournament favourites Brazil in Christchurch.

It is hoped that all this fine-tuning will be enough as Australia have been drawn in the toughest group, Group C, which includes other than Brazil, Germany and Mali.

Even the bookmakers have written off the Joeys, with Australia being rated the least likely of the group to advance and with odds of 13 to 1 against to make it to the Quarter-Finals.

To get to these Championships, Australia had to go through a two-stage process. Owing to New Zealand already qualifying for the Finals as they were the hosts, the winners of Oceania would have to play-off against the fourth placed Asian team.

The Oceania Under 17 Qualifying Championships were held in Fiji in the first half of May this year. With a late change in the number of teams entered the draw saw two groups with Australia seeded top of Group A.

In their group matches the Australians fought off a tough start against the hosts and continued to win each game finishing with a 42 goals for and the one solitary Fiji goal against.

They defeated Fiji 2:1 (0:1 half-time), Papua Guinea 8:0 (4:0), Cook Islands 8:0 (4:0), American Samoa 15:0 (6:0) and Vanuatu 9:0 (4:0) in the Qualifying rounds. In the Semi-Final they won 8:0 (2:0) over



New Caledonia and then took out the Championships easily 5:0 (2:0) over Fiji.

The victory in the Championships mean that Australia would play Bahrain in the playoff to select the final team for the 1999 Finals in New Zealand. In August over a two week period Australia hosted Bahrain in Canberra on August 14th and then travelled to Bahrain for the return clash on August 27th.

At Bruce Stadium in Canberra a small crowd of 1000 braved the cold winter's evening to see the Australians struggle against a Bahrain outfit who were feeling both the temperature difference and the elevation change.

Joseph Di Iorio scored from the penalty spot in the 16th minute only to see Bahrain tie the game up with Husain Salman putting away a deflected free-kick that was not cleared. Ten minutes later Australia finished the scoring after Australian captain Mark Byrnes volleyed from a tight angle.

The away goal for Bahrain meant that the return tie would be all the much harder. The score in Bahrain finished 1:0 but fortunately, it was in Australia's favour after Louis Brain lobbed the keeper just before half-time.

Over the last month the Joeys have been on tour in South America (see latest games summary page 22) honing their skills and ridding themselves of any cobwebs prior to the Finals in New Zealand. Joeys coach Les Scheinflug chose a 19-man squad for the tour. The team was whittled down to the required 18 man (see box below) squad for the finals with James Johnson being the unlucky one to miss out on the trip of a lifetime.

| No | Pos | Name | DOB | Club | Country |
|----|-----|---------------------------|----------|----------------------|---------|
| 1 | GK | KEDWELL-VAN STRATTEN Jess | 19/07/82 | Adelaide City | AUS |
| 2 | DF | LOCKHART Shane | 26/09/82 | NSW Academy | AUS |
| 3 | DF | CANDELL-SHERRIFF Shane | 10/11/82 | Leeds Utd | ENG |
| 4 | DF | GOULDING Aaron | 29/04/82 | Para Hills | AUS |
| 5 | DF | MADASCHI Adnan | 11/07/82 | Atalanta | ITA |
| 6 | DF | BYRNES Mark | 8/02/82 | Parramatta Power | AUS |
| 7 | MF | NORTH Jade | 7/01/82 | AUS Institute Sport | AUS |
| 8 | MF | BRAIN Louis | 9/05/82 | Adelaide Force | AUS |
| 9 | FW | DI IORIO Joseph | 8/04/82 | Werder Bremen | GER |
| 10 | MF | PANTELOS Lucas | 12/03/82 | AUS Institute Sport | AUS |
| 11 | FW | MCDONALD Scott | 21/08/83 | Vic. Institute Sport | AUS |
| 12 | FW | KENNEDY Joshua | 20/08/82 | AUS Institute Sport | AUS |
| 13 | DF | FYFE Iain | 3/04/82 | SAUS Inst Sport | AUS |
| 14 | MF | GROVES Bradley | 29/01/82 | Leeds Utd | ENG |
| 15 | MF | DOUMANIS Anthony | 1/02/82 | NSW Academy | AUS |
| 16 | MF | SRHOJ Wayne | 23/03/82 | AUS Institute Sport | AUS |
| 17 | MF | MACALLISTER Dylan | 17/05/82 | Sydney Olympic | AUS |
| 18 | GK | MILOSEVIC Matthew | 29/10/82 | Adelaide City | AUS |

JOEYS CONCLUDE TOUR WITH DRAW AGAINST ARGENTINA



The Australian Under-17 Soccer Team has scored an emphatic 5-nil win over an Argentine Southern Select XI in Mar del Plata last week, in the opening game of the final leg of the South American tour.

The LG Joeys were to have played two games against the Argentine Under-17s on this leg, however a change in the Argentine National Competition draw saw the Australians pitted against the Southern Select Eleven instead, and off to a flying start.

From the kick-off, Lucas Pantelis knocked the ball through to Joe Di Iorio whose ball to Scott McDonald was volleyed into the back of the net after just 29 seconds.

The LG Joeys went ahead 2-nil in the 22nd minute, Di Iorio's shot from 25 metres parried by the keeper into the path of Pantelis, who slotted the ball home from close range.

The Australian squad was been strengthened for this game by the addition of European based players Shane Cansdell-Sheriff, Bradley Groves and Adrian Madaschi and it was Cansdell-Sheriff who put Australia's third goal on the board in the 37th minute.

Two minutes later McDonald picked up his second of the game, heading in a looping cross at the far post from Dylan MacAllister to give the LG Joeys a 4-nil lead into the half time break.

A tighter defence from the Argentines in the second half slowed the scoring, but MacAllister was able to add his name to the score-sheet in the 65th minute, volleying home an Anthony Doumanis cross to give the LG JOEYS a comfortable 5-nil victory.

LG JOEYS 5 (S McDonald 1' 39', L Pantelis 22', L Cansdell-Sheriff 37', D MacAllister 65')

ARGENTINE SOUTH SELECT 0

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP:

Van Stratten (gk) (Milosevic (gk) 45'), Madaschi (Lockhart 45'), Byrnes (Fyfe 45'), Goulding, North, Cansdell-Sheriff, MacAllister, Groves, Pantelis (Johnson 45'), Di Iorio (Kennedy 45'), McDonald (Doumanis 45').

Australia's next match is against Independiente on 2nd November 1999 (South American time).

The LG Joeys continued their excellent build up to the World Youth Championships, with a hard fought 1-nil win over Argentine First Division club side Independiente, in Buenos Aires in the second game of the Argentine leg of their South American trip.

The first half was extremely tight from both sides, captain Mark Byrnes, and Adrian Madaschi keeping Australia solid at the back, but strikers Joe Di Iorio and Scott McDonald on the receiving end of tight Argentine marking themselves.

The LG JOEYS looked more likely to break through in the second half as the midfielders created more space, the first real opportunity to McDonald who got on the end of a Bradley Groves cross in the 51st minute, only to see his header scrambled away for a corner.

The Australians were finally rewarded for their constant pressure in the 70th minute, Shane Cansdell-Sheriff cutting down the right and crossing to McDonald, who buried his shot into the back of the net, to give the LG Joeys the 1-nil victory.

LG JOEYS 1 (S McDonald 70')

INDEPENDIENTE 0

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP:

Van Stratten (gk); Madaschi, Byrnes, Goulding (Fyfe 40'), North, Cansdell-Sheriff, MacAllister (Doumanis 65'), Groves, Pantelis (Johnson 60'), Di Iorio (Kennedy 45'), McDonald.

The LG Joeys concluded their tour of South America in the prelude to the World Youth Championships, with a 3-all draw with the Argentine Under-20 soccer team in Buenos Aires.

The Australians were shell-shocked from the kick-off, down two goals in the first five minutes of play before they were able to settle the game.

Striker Dylan Macallister pulled one back for the LG Joeys in the 30th minute, volleying in a cross from Scott McDonald

to see the Australians into the half time break down a goal.

The Under-17s clawed their way back onto level terms in the 84th minute captain Adrian Madaschi heading in from a Scott McDonald corner, only to concede another goal just two minutes later, when a header beat goalkeeper Jess Van Stratten.

The LG Joeys again tied the game in the final minute of play however, Wayne Srhoj latching onto a Jade North free kick, to head the ball into the back of the net for a 3-3 scoreline.

"The boys were given their toughest workout yet today, and while we got off to a slow start, they really showed what they were made of, coming back the way they did," said coach Les Scheinflug.

"This was one of the toughest and most intensive games they've had, and it's given the boys a good taste for what they can expect at the World Championships.

"The tour overall has been very successful, we're happy with our preparation, everybody has learned some valuable lessons, but our biggest lesson will come when we hit New Zealand."

LG JOEYS 3 (D Macallister 30', M Byrnes 84', W Srhoj 90')

ARGENTINE U-20s 3

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP:

J Van Stratten (gk); A Madaschi, M Byrnes, A Goulding, J North, S Cansdell-Sheriff, D MacAllister (I Fyfe 73'), B Groves, L Pantelis (L Brain 45'), J Di Iorio, S McDonald (J Kennedy 83').

The LG Joeys first game at the World Youth Championship is the Group C opener against Brazil, on 12th November (1.45pm Christchurch time).

UNDER 17 WORLD CUP MATCH SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| GROUP A: | |
| 10-11-99 [1] | Auckland 19:30 New Zealand vs. United States |
| 11-11-99 [4] | Auckland 19:30 Uruguay vs. Poland |
| 13-11-99 [11] | Auckland 13:45 New Zealand vs. Uruguay |
| 13-11-99 [12] | Auckland 16:00 United States vs. Poland |
| 16-11-99 [19] | Auckland 18:00 Poland vs. New Zealand |
| 16-11-99 [20] | Auckland 20:15 United States vs. Uruguay |
| GROUP B: | |
| 11-11-99 [2] | Napier 16:00 Ghana vs. Spain |
| 11-11-99 [3] | Napier 18:15 Mexico vs. Thailand |
| 13-11-99 [9] | Napier 13:45 Spain vs. Thailand |
| 13-11-99 [10] | Napier 16:00 Ghana vs. Mexico |
| 16-11-99 [17] | Napier 16:00 Thailand vs. Ghana |
| 16-11-99 [18] | Napier 18:15 Spain vs. Mexico |
| GROUP C: | |
| 12-11-99 [5] | Christchurch 13:45 Brazil vs. Australia |
| 12-11-99 [6] | Christchurch 16:00 Mali vs. Germany |
| 14-11-99 [13] | Christchurch 16:00 Australia vs. Germany |
| 14-11-99 [14] | Christchurch 18:15 Brazil vs. Mali |
| 17-11-99 [21] | Christchurch 16:00 Germany vs. |

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| GROUP D: | |
| 12-11-99 [7] | Dunedin 18:00 Jamaica vs. Burkina Faso |
| 12-11-99 [8] | Dunedin 20:15 Paraguay vs. Qatar |
| 14-11-99 [15] | Dunedin 18:00 Burkina Faso vs. Qatar |
| 14-11-99 [16] | Dunedin 20:15 Jamaica vs. Paraguay |
| 17-11-99 [23] | Dunedin 18:00 Qatar vs. Jamaica |
| 17-11-99 [24] | Dunedin 20:15 Burkina Faso vs. Paraguay |
| QUARTERFINALS | |
| 20-11-99 [25] | Auckland 14:00 A vs. 2B |
| 20-11-99 [26] | Napier 16:00 B vs. 2A |
| 21-11-99 [27] | Christchurch 14:00 C vs. 2D |
| 21-11-99 [28] | Dunedin 16:00 D vs. 2C |
| SEMIFINALS | |
| 24-11-99 [29] | Christchurch 16:00 Winner 25 vs. Winner 27 |
| 24-11-99 [30] | Auckland 19:30 Winner 26 vs. Winner 28 |
| THIRD PLACE | |
| 27-11-99 [31] | Auckland 13:15 L 29 vs. L 30 |
| FINAL | |
| 27-11-99 [32] | Auckland 16:00 Winner 29 vs. Winner 30 |

(Continued from Page 17)

Two minutes later former VIS midfielder Boris Ovcin powered down the left beating two players and finishing sweetly. Mashoian completed his hat-trick when he held off Abbas Toyin after 79 minutes. Then in injury time substitute Adam Poole cut the ball back for Tass Psonis to score the fifth goal.

Last week South Melbourne coach John Kennedy said it would take his large squad about two or three weeks to hit its straps, but even he could not have forecast this turnaround.

Carlton continued on its winning way with a three-one win over Melbourne Knights Academy. Steve Martin opened the scoring and Isayim Erdogan made it two before the Academy took advantage of sloppiness in the Carlton defence to pull a goal back through Andre Majer.

The Academy kept up the pressure in the second half, and Hrvoje Matkovic hit the post and Jason Vukadin had a couple of chances, but Carlton sealed the match with a late free kick by Nick Tolios.

The Victorian Institute of Sport recorded a four-nil victory away to Bulleen, with two goals in each half. Ricky Chillico scored first and David Terek added a second. Bulleen came out fired up for the second half and was very competitive until Mark Tsioras scored against his old club.

Naum Sekulovski added the fourth late in the game. Denis Vucinic in midfield and Daniel Rocco in defence were important contributors for the winners.

Gippsland Falcons beat Albury Wodonga at Alexandra Park in the wind and rain by five goals to three. Adam Griffith, David Martin and Mitchell Jones were on target for Albury Wodonga, while for Gippsland Igor Stojanac scored two and the others were singles to Shane Cassar, Denis Mustec and Alex McDermid.

Fawcner Blues thumped Preston Lions by four goals to nil, but the goalscorers were not available at time of writing.

Fitim Ibraimi scored the penalty goal for South Dandenong in its two-one loss to Gippsland Falcons last week.

Answer to question on page 18 is South Melbourne's coaching team of Ange Postecoglou (top row third from left) and Karl Halford (bottom row second from left).

LAZARIDIS MARKS RETURN FROM INJURY WITH ANOTHER GOAL FOR BIRMINGHAM

In the midweek European Cup games the Champions Cup featured two Aussies playing full games for their clubs in matches which had quite different endings.

Mark Bosnich continued in his role as Manchester United's number one goalkeeper as his team moved into the second stage of the competition with a 2-1 home victory over Austria's Sturm Graz. United finished top of Group D and have been drawn with Valencia, Bordeaux and Fiorentina in Group B of the second group stage.

Craig Moore, on the other hand, was part of the Rangers team that traveled to Bayern Munich needing to draw with the Bundesliga champions to join Manchester United in the second group stage. Moore played the full game as his team put on a splendid performance spurning a number of goal scoring opportunities, including hitting the post before a penalty to Bayern gave them the ending 1-0 result and put the Germans through to the next stage at the expense of the Scots.

Tony Vidmar was part of Rangers' squad but did not see any action on the night.

Paul Okon was also in the Fiorentina team that drew 3-3 at home with Cup favourites Barcelona. Okon came on in the 79th minute and will possibly oppose his national team captain Bosnich in the next stage.

In the UEFA Cup games Harry Kewell was instrumental in gaining Leeds a penalty in their 3-0 away victory over Lokomotive Moscow for an overall 7-1 win. Kewell was replaced in the 65th minute even though Leeds were 3-0 in front at half time and coach David O'Leary seems to be of the view that young Harry is in dire need of a rest. Kewell is reported to have come off

because of an injury.

Mark Viduka was part of the Celtic team that had an excellent opportunity to advance to the next round with a only a 1-0 defeat away to Lyon in the first leg. Even though Viduka's strike partner Henrik Larsson is out for the season the Scottish team was expected to progress to the next round. Unfortunately they performed below expectations and deprived of adequate service from his midfield Viduka could not get onto the score-sheet and he and his team went down 0-1.

In other UEFA Cup games two goalkeepers, Zeljko Kalac and Ante Covic, both played full games for their teams but had no luck in advancing to the next round. Covic's PAOK team, from Greece, went out on penalties after beating Benfica 1-2 in Portugal in the second leg.

Kalac's Roda JC lost 1-0 away to Wolfsburg and was, also, eliminated with Kalac playing a full game.

The English Premier League saw four Aussies make it onto the park for their teams. Two goalkeepers, Mark Bosnich and Mark Schwarzer carried on their impeccable forms between the sticks as their teams battled to a home win and draw respectively. United beat Leicester 2-0 while Middlesbrough could only draw 1-1 against Premier League surprise team Sunderland.

Richard Johnson, hoping to make his international debut against Brazil next week, was in the Watford side that had a good 2-2 away draw with Sheffield Wednesday in the battle of the bottom two. Johnson played a full game and is making good progress since his return from long term injury.

Harry Kewell, injured in the midweek European UEFA Cup game, recovered in time for Leeds' game against Wimbledon and played the full game as his team lost their 12 game unbeaten run with a 2-0 away loss.

In Nationwide Division One Stan Lazarides made a comeback from injury when his team, Birmingham, traveled to Portsmouth. Coach Trevor Francis was happy to have Stan back but he expected that 'the best Stan Lazaridis can hope for is a place on the bench because he has been out for six weeks, but I do envisage him playing some part'. Lazarides did more than play a part as he came on at the start of the second half and scored the opening goal for his side to negate an earlier goal for the home team. The two sides scored another goal each for the game to end in a 2-2 draw.

Both Aussies in the Portsmouth team, Andy Petterson and Mike Panapoulos, played full games.

In other Division One games Blackburn's John Filan, an ever present in their goals, seems to have felt the effect of a manager change as he found himself on the bench for the game against Ipswich which was drawn 2-2. With the departure of Brian Kidd the caretaker coach Tony Parkes decided that Filan should start the game off the bench and that is where he stayed for the duration of the game.

Shaun Murphy was part of the

Sheffield United defence but was unable to prevent the scoring of two goals as his side went down by those goals away to Barnsley.

Crystal Palace went down by the same score away to Bolton and even though Craig Foster has joined the first team squad for the first time this season he did not make the bench for this game.

In Huddersfield's 4-0 home romp over Swindon the unfortunate 'keeper for the away team was Aussie Frank Talia.

The other Aussie 'keeper Jason Kearton was also in goals as his team Crewe was beaten at Port Vale by the odd goal.

Another team with Aussies to be on the end of a thrashing was West Bromwich Albion who were beaten by three goals to nil away to Tranmere. Both of Albion's Aussies Andrew McDermott and Jason Van Blerk started the game with McDermott being replaced in the 55th minute.

An Australian with a more successful weekend was Steve Corica who started the game but was replaced in the 68th minute as his team Wolverhampton Wanderers had a good 3-0 home win over Grimsby.

In the Nationwide Division Two Danny Allsop started his loan spell at Notts County in style with a 2nd minute goal in a 1-1 home draw with Gillingham.

Both Aussies Lucas Neill and Tim Cahill were part of Millwall's team which won 4-0 away to Scunthorpe and both played the full game.

In the Sunday game Andrew Bernal's team Reading was beaten 2-1 with the Aussie playing a full game.

In Germany Ned Zelic was not part of 1860 Munchen team which had a 2-1 home victory over Unterhaching but Paul Agostino came on in the 70th minute.

David Zdrilic was substituted in the 80th minute as SSV Ulm went down 0-1 at home to Bayern Munchen.

Josip Simunic wasn't part of the Hamburg team that drew 3-3 with at home to Hansa Rostock.

Paul Okon got another starting spot for Fiorentina in their 1-1 away draw with Cagliari but was replaced in the 71st minute.

In the Serie B Marco Bresciano came on as substitute in the 61st minute as his team Empoli drew 1-1 at home with Ravenna while Vince Grella wasn't part of the home team squad.

In Croatia Josip Skoko played a full game for Hajduk as they won away to Sibenik. The Hajduk captain was again one of his team's best players but the other Aussie in the team Tony Grdic wasn't included in the squad for this week's game.

Ante Milicic is still having trouble breaking through into the starting lineup at Rijeka despite scoring two goals on his debut as a substitute. He was again a sub and came on in the 78th minute as Rijeka won 2-0 at home to Hrvatski Dragovoljac.

In Holland Zeljko Kalac played a full game as his team Roda JC won 3-0 at home over Den Bosch.

ALOISI FOILED BY INJURY



John Aloisi has lost his battle to face Brazil in next weekend's friendly internationals against Australia. The Sky Blues striker had been called up for the games in Melbourne and Sydney this month, but admits he is still four or five weeks away from a return to action.

"I was wanted to play alongside Mark Viduka up front with Harry Kewell wide on the left, said the Aussie goal-scorer who has already been out for almost two months.

"I spoke to the new Australian manager Frank Farina and he said he wanted me for the games and Coventry said I could play.

"I know Harry has had a few problems being released at Leeds but I think they have said he can go now for at least one of the games. But there wasn't a problem with me because we have Aston Villa on the Monday after the second match in Sydney, which would have given me time to get over jet-lag.

"I have been really looking forward to playing against Ronaldo and his Brazilian team-mates but my injury has ruled me out. The assistant manager came over to see me last week but I had to tell him I had didn't have a chance, which is very disappointing.

Aloisi is clearly frustrated with his injury which has set back his season at a time when he could have enjoyed an extended run in the Premiership, as well as exciting international duty. "I was playing really well just before I got injured and was building a good partnership with Robbie Keane, he said. "With Noel Whelan injured, I was set to get a good run and I often wonder how things would have turned out had I been fit.

"No one seemed to know exactly what was wrong with me until two weeks ago when they diagnosed a ruptured tendon in the hamstring.

I have tried to come back once but it was too early, so I can't afford to take any chances this time.

West Brom full-back Andy McDermott, who scored his first goal for the club in last week's draw with Wolves, has revealed his determination to stay at the club.

He also must overcome the fans who have given him a hard time in the past. McDermott said: "I know the fans haven't always been on my side but at the end of the day I always go out and do my best. I give my all every time I go out there and that is without question."

He added: "I want to do well because I am out of contract at the end of the season and I want to stay with the club. I am really settled in the area and so is my wife. I feel with Brian Little in charge Albion have a good chance of achieving success."

Local reports in the Canberra media are focusing on the speculation that former Socceroo defender George Kulcsar has discussed with Canberra Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni the viability of joining the club when his contract with English first-division side Queen's Park Rangers expires in January.

Cosmos officials have also been in touch with PJ Roberts, who played for the club for the latter part of last season and excelled, before leaving Australia to have trials with several British clubs. Roberts, who had spells at Hibernian, Oxford United, Stockport County and Millwall, failed to win a contract and is understood to be considering a return to his home town.

Sermanni and Kulcsar, who played together for Canberra in the national league a decade ago and later worked together as coach and player respectively with the Metros in the NSW Super League, have kept regular touch.

Kulcsar, who played for Belgian giant Royal Antwerp and English side Bradford City before moving to QPR, leapt into headlines across the world last month, when he was struck down by meningitis and caused the precautionary closure of Rangers' training ground.

He has still not recovered fully and according to the Cosmos coach is contemplating a return to Australia. Sermanni, who has yet to speak to Roberts, said the club's negotiations with both players were at an early stage. Although it would be hard to envisage both of them and Brian Hamilton - all a similar type of player - fitting into the same team, Sermanni admits to being an admirer of all three.

"I would love to have PJ and George but there are a lot of considerations, not just footballing ones," he said.

"The last thing I want to do is to break our budget and if it came down to money, we wouldn't be able to offer George a fraction of what he'd be on at QPR."



ARSENAL OUT DESPITE LATE VICTORY



Former champions Borussia Dortmund saw their hopes of winning the European Cup for the second time in four years end in disaster last week as they crashed out of this season's competition at the first group stage.

It was a bad night for both German teams in action as Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen could finish only third in their respective groups, leaving only a place in the revamped UEFA Cup as a consolation.

Holders Manchester United, Lazio, Barcelona and Rosenborg all avoided each other in the second group stage after winning their respective groups in style.

The surprise of the night, though, was reserved for Dortmund. Champions in 1997 and strongly fancied to win at lowly Boavista of Portugal, Dortmund slumped to a 1-0 defeat, allowing Feyenoord to leapfrog them into second place by defeating Group C winners Rosenborg 1-0 in Holland.

Feyenoord substitute Somalia scored six minutes from time to send his

side through to the last 16 in Dortmund's place and leave the Bundesliga leaders contemplating the UEFA Cup for European glory this year.

Holders Manchester United had no such trouble, easing past Sturm Graz 2-1 at Old Trafford through goals from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and captain Roy Keane. The English club finished top of Group D and clinched a place in the last 16 as one of the eight top-seeded teams.

With Marseille drawing 2-2 with Croatia Zagreb in France, Graz edged the Croats for third place in Group D and a UEFA Cup berth. Kaba Diawara dashed Zagreb's dreams with a second Marseille equaliser in the last minute.

Group B winners Barcelona shared six goals with Fiorentina in Florence as Rivaldo and Abel Balbo scored two goals apiece. The Spaniards topped the group, well ahead of the Italians to cruise through to the next phase as one of the outright favourites.

Italy's Lazio won 1-0 in Kiev to finish as runaway winners of Group A but last year's semifinalists still scraped through to the last 16 as Bayer Leverkusen were surprisingly held to a goalless draw by Maribor in Germany.

Elsewhere, Arsenal salvaged a little pride by winning 3-2 at AIK Solna, thanks to two goals from Dutchman Marc Overmars and one from Davor Suker. Assured of only third place in Group B, Arsenal will now enter the UEFA Cup at the third-round stage.

Former champions AC Milan suffered the ultimate ignominy on Wednesday as they crashed out of the Champions League at the first stage for the second straight time following their 3-2 defeat at Galatasaray, a loss which left them bottom of their group.

While Chelsea, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid were all cementing their places in the next phase, Milan, arguably the Italian team of the decade, were dumped out of Europe for another season after suffering two late sucker-

punches.

Leading 2-1, Milan were just three minutes away from a place in the next phase thanks to goals from George Weah and Federico Giunti. Their joy turned to heartbreak and disaster, though, as first Hakan Sukur levelled the scores and then Davala Umit converted a last-minute penalty to give the home side third place in Group H and a place in the revamped UEFA Cup.

Following on from their exit at the group stages in 1996, the Italian champions must now hope they can qualify for next season's Champions League as one of the top three sides in Serie A.

Milan's defeat also handed Hertha Berlin a place in the last 16 even though the Germans were thoroughly outplayed by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. Didier Deschamps and Albert Ferrer scored their first goals for Chelsea as the Blues won 2-0 to finish as one of the eight group winners.

Real Madrid, Valencia and Sparta Prague all won their groups, while last year's runners-up Bayern Munich became the second German club to make the next phase by edging out Glasgow Rangers 1-0 in Germany.

Rangers can count themselves unlucky, though, after producing a superb performance at the Olympic Stadium. Needing only a point to qualify for the next phase, Michael Mols and Rod Wallace both hit the woodwork for Rangers but a penalty from Thomas Strunz sealed victory for the Germans 12 minutes before half-time.

The result left Bayern second behind Valencia in Group F after the Spaniards beat PSV Eindhoven 1-0 thanks to a goal by Claudio Lopez 20 minutes from time.

Sparta Prague crushed Spartak Moscow 5-2 to leapfrog Bordeaux to finish as winners of Group G. The French club could only draw 0-0 at Willem II Tilburg of Holland.

Manchester United and Chelsea will be celebrating after being handed a great chance to progress to the knockout stages of the Champions League after being handed good draws for the second group stage of the Champions League.

The current European champions were grouped with Valencia, French side Bordeaux - who are currently fourth in the French League - and the side that sealed Arsenal's fate in the first stage of the competition - Fiorentina.

Chelsea, meanwhile, have a slightly tougher group, being drawn with seeds and Serie A leaders Lazio in Group D.

But they have also been lined up to play Dutch side Feyenoord and Marseille - who went through as runners-up in Manchester United's group.

Arguably the toughest group is Group C, which drew together Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Dynamo Kiev and Rosenborg.

The opening two games of the latest stage are to be played on November 23 and 24.

Bookmakers Ladbroke's have lengthened United's odds to retain the Champions League to 5-1, making them the third favourites, after this morning's draw in Geneva.

Barcelona are 5-2 favourites, with Lazio at 7-2. Chelsea are fourth in the list at 8-1.

The four groups are:

| Group A: | Group B: |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Barcelona | Manchester United |
| Sparta Prague | Valencia |
| Porto | Bordeaux |
| Hertha Berlin | Fiorentina |

| Group C: | Group D: |
|---------------|-----------|
| Real Madrid | Lazio |
| Rosenborg | Chelsea |
| Bayern Munich | Feyenoord |
| Dynamo Kiev | Marseille |

| Group A: | | | | |
|----------------|-------|------------|---|----------|
| B Leverkusen | 0 - 0 | NK Maribor | | |
| Dynamo Kiev | 0 - 1 | Lazio | | |
| | | Mamedov | | |
| | | (o.g. 18) | | |
| PW D L F A Pts | | | | |
| Lazio | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 13 314 |
| Dynamo Kiev | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 8 8 7 |
| B Leverkusen | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 7 7 7 |
| NK Maribor | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 212 4 |

| Group B: | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------|--|--|
| Fiorentina | 3 - 3 | Barcelona | | |
| Bressan (14) | | Figo (20) | | |
| Balbo (56, 70) | | Rivaldo (43, 74) | | |
| AIK Solna | 2 - 3 | Arsenal | | |
| Andersson (41, 68) | | Overmars (17, 52) | | |
| | | Suker (56) | | |

| PW D L F A Pts | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|----------|
| Barcelona | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 19 914 |
| Fiorentina | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 9 7 9 |
| Arsenal | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 9 9 8 |
| AIK Solna | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 416 1 |

| Group C: | | | | |
|----------------|-------|------------|---|---------|
| Boavista | 1 - 0 | B Dortmund | | |
| Emanuel (16) | | | | |
| Feyenoord | 1 - 0 | Rosenborg | | |
| Somalia (86) | | | | |
| PW D L F A Pts | | | | |
| Rosenborg | 6 | 3 | 2 | 112 511 |
| Feyenoord | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 7 6 8 |
| B Dortmund | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 7 9 6 |
| Boavista | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 3 9 5 |

| Group D: | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-----------------|--|--|
| Manchester | 2 - 1 | Sturm Graz | | |
| Solskjaer (56) | | Vastic (pen 88) | | |
| Keane (69) | | | | |
| Marseilles | 2 - 2 | Croatia Zagreb | | |
| Bakayoko (53) | | Mujcin (42) | | |
| Diawara (89) | | Mikic (84) | | |

| PW D L F A Pts | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---------|
| Manchester | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 9 413 |
| Marseilles | 6 | 3 | 1 | 210 810 |
| Sturm Graz | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 512 6 |
| Croatia Z | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 7 7 5 |

Group E:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---------------|--|--|
| Molde | 0 - 1 | Real Madrid | | |
| | | Karembeu (43) | | |
| Olympiakos | 1 - 0 | Porto | | |
| Giannakopoulos (56) | | | | |

| PW D L F A Pts | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---------|
| Real Madrid | 6 | 4 | 1 | 115 713 |
| Porto | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 9 612 |
| Olympiakos | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 912 7 |
| Molde | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 614 3 |

Group F:
Bayern Munich 1 - 0 Rangers
Strunz (pen 33)

| | | | | |
|------------|-------|-----|--|--|
| Valencia | 1 - 0 | PSV | | |
| Lopez (71) | | | | |

| PW D L F A Pts | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---------|
| Valencia | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 8 412 |
| Bayern Mun | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 7 6 9 |
| Rangers | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 7 7 7 |
| PSV | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 510 4 |

| Group G: | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|--|--|
| Sparta Prague | 5 - 2 | Spartak Moscow | | |
| Lokvenc (1, 66) | | Bulatov (34) | | |
| Rosicky (11) | | Bezrodnii (45) | | |
| Fukal (49) | | | | |
| Labant (pen 63) | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|----------|--|--|
| Willem II | 0 - 0 | Bordeaux | | |
|-----------|-------|----------|--|--|

Group H:

| PW D L F A Pts | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---------|
| Sparta Prag | 6 | 3 | 3 | 014 612 |
| Bordeaux | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 7 412 |
| Spartak Mos | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 912 5 |
| Willem II | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 715 2 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------|--|--|
| Galatasaray | 3 - 2 | AC Milan | | |
| Capone (27) | | Weah (20) | | |
| Hakan Sukur (87) | | Giunti (51) | | |
| Umit (pen 90) | | | | |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------------|--|--|
| Chelsea | 2 - 0 | Hertha Berlin | | |
| Deschamps (11) | | | | |
| Ferrer (44) | | | | |

| PW D L F A Pts | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---------|
| Chelsea | 6 | 3 | 2 | 110 311 |
| Hertha Berlin | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 710 8 |
| Galatasaray | 6 | 2 | 1 | 31012 7 |
| AC Milan | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 6 7 6 |

COLE'S GOALS TIMELY FOR EURO PLAY OFF

Manchester United saw rivals Leeds United, Arsenal and Chelsea all falter in the race for the title over the weekend.

David O'Leary's Leeds had their 12-match unbeaten run ended by a 2-0 defeat at Wimbledon.

And Arsenal had two men sent off as the lost 2-1 at bitter rivals Tottenham in a full-blooded north London derby.

Chelsea meanwhile were held 0-0 by West Ham in another London derby at Stamford Bridge.

At Selhurst Park Leeds had the chance to go back above Manchester at the top if they could beat the Dons.

John Hartson started to spoil the script by breaking the deadlock on 31 minutes.

He finished with a flourish at the far post after Ian Harte failed to cut out a cross from Kenny Cunningham.

Carl Cort had a great chance to put the Dons two up nine minutes after the interval, but he blazed over from close range.

Marcus Gayle did give the Dons a two-goal cushion though on 65 minutes, powering home a near-post header from an Alan Kimble corner.

Leeds tried desperately to get back into the game, but looked tired after Thursday's UEFA Cup trip to Lokomotiv Moscow.

At White Hart Lane David Elleray handed out two red cards and 10 yellow as Arsene Wenger suffered his first defeat in a north London derby.

Fredrik Ljungberg and Martin Keown were both dismissed as Arsenal just failed to recover from an early 2-0 deficit.

Tottenham rocked the Gunners in the first 20 minutes with strikes from Steffen Iversen and Tim Sherwood.

First Iversen slotted coolly past Seaman on seven minutes after fellow Norwegian Oyvind Leonhardsen chipped the ball over the Arsenal defence.

And Sherwood made it 2-0 on 20 minutes, firing home a 20-yard free-kick.

Patrick Vieira pulled one back for the Gunners, heading home from an Emmanuel Petit free-kick six minutes before half-time.

But the Gunners were reduced to 10 men on 53 minutes when Swede Ljungberg was red-carded following a fiery clash with Justin Edinburgh.

And in the dying seconds Keown was dismissed for a second yellow card after lunging at Jose Dominguez.

Tottenham move into the top six after their victory.

At Stamford Bridge the most noteworthy moment was the third red card of the day in the top flight as Chelsea and the Hammers drew a blank.

That came just five minutes from the end of a dire game when West Ham's Chilean defender Javier Margas was dismissed for a second bookable offence.

Paulo Wanchope of all people spoiled

probably Chelsea's best moment early in the second half.

He cleared the ball off the line from a Tore Andre Flo header.

Chelsea are still 10 points off the leaders. Newcastle moved out of the bottom three in the table despite being held to a 1-1 draw by Everton at St James' Park.

Alan Shearer looked to have put the Toon Army on the road to three crucial points when he broke the deadlock just after half-time.

He scored from the penalty spot on 46 minutes after Paul Gerrard had brought down Gary Speed.

But Kevin Campbell earned a point for the Toffees on 62, heading past Steve Harper from a Nick Barnby cross for his seventh goal of the season.

Andy Cole sent an irresistible 'pick me against Scotland' message to Kevin Keegan with a brace as Manchester United returned to the top of the FA Carling Premiership with a 2-0 victory over Leicester.

Cole pounced on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's header with his back to goal to unleash a bicycle kick for his 12th goal of the season in the 30th minute.

And he made sure of the three points when he netted United's second seven minutes from time.

His first shot hit the post and he knocked home the rebound.

Michael Reddy scored his first goal for Sunderland to earn the high-flying Weariders a 1-1 draw in a bad-tempered north-east derby against Middlesbrough at the Riverside.

Peter Reid's men were up against it after Chris Makin was sent off in the first-half for two yellow cards.

And their nine-match unbeaten run in the Premiership looked in real danger when Hamilton Ricard struck after 76.

But the young Irishman, who had came off the bench, levelled just two minutes later when he slotted home the rebound - after Mark Schwarzer had saved Kevin Phillips' 78th minute penalty.

Liverpool moved into fifth as they extended their unbeaten run to six matches with a 2-0 victory over Derby at Anfield.

Danny Murphy broke the deadlock on 65 minutes when his low shot deflected off Spencer Prior's body and into the net.

And four minutes later, Russell Hoult came rushing out of his goal but missed the ball completely, allowing Jamie Redknapp to fire the ball into an empty net.

Gilles de Bilde twice equalised for Sheffield Wednesday as they drew 2-2 with Watford in the battle of the bottom two at Hillsborough.

Zaire international Michel Ngonge struck the opener for Graham Taylor's men after 21 minutes following a great one-two with Charlie Miller.

De Bilde levelled from the penalty spot on 56 but moments later, Robert Page restored Watford's advantage when he headed Micah

Hyde's free-kick past Kevin Pressman at the far post.

However, the Belgian international notched his second on 78 to earn the Owls a point.

Bradford moved out of the relegation zone after drawing 1-1 with Coventry at Valley Parade.

Steve Froggatt, the surprise inclusion in Keegan's England squad, was part of the move which saw Gary McAllister give the Sky Blues a first minute lead.

But City sub Peter Beagrie provided the cross for Lee Mills to ram in his fourth in five games to level on 43.

Aston Villa were booed off by the home fans after they lost 1-0 to Southampton.

Six minutes from time Dean Richards headed home from close range after getting on the end of Hassan Kachloul's corner.

In the Nationwide Division One, the fastest goal of the day gave troubled Blackburn a much-needed boost but in the end they had to be satisfied with a draw against high flying Ipswich.

Lee Carsley netted in 32 seconds, his sixth of the season, and followed up with a 67th-minute penalty to set up the prospect of a flying start for Tony Parkes, in his fifth spell as Rovers caretaker boss.

But Matt Holland pulled one back eight minutes later and Town showed their spirit by battling through to equalise with Tony Mowbray's goal in the dying seconds.

Manchester City stayed top thanks to Kevin Horlock's leveller at Queen's Park Rangers who led through Chris Kiwomya.

Wolves' Ade Akinbiyi repaid a substantial part of his £3.5million transfer fee with a hat-trick against Grimsby who had Paul Groves sent off in the first half. Wolves, now unbeaten in nine games, look a stronger outfit with the former Bristol City striker's firepower and the Mariners were never in the game.

Huddersfield Town made it three home wins in a week with a 4-0 thrashing of bottom club Swindon Town. Chris Beech, who notched Tuesday's winner against Ipswich, set Town on the road in the ninth minute, Ben Thornley added a second before half-time and Surinam international Dean Gorre rapped home two in six minutes to complete the biggest win of the day.

A brace from Neil Shipperley in the 18th and 79th minutes gave Barnsley the spoils in the Yorkshire derby and Dave Bassett the sweet pleasure of revenge over the club he served so well. It also lifted the Reds into the higher echelons of the table.

Eidur Gudjohnsen and Claus Jensen with second-half goals gave Bolton an easy win over a Crystal Palace side that has never beaten Wanderers on their home turf and never looked likely to end the sequence.

Walsall's Hungarian import Gabby Buckran gave them a shock lead at The Valley but the ever reliable Andy Hunt popped in the equaliser on the stroke of half-time to deflate the



Arsenal's Petit in action against Spurs.

Saddlers. Graham Stuart's 77th-minute winner keeps Alan Curbishley's lads on Manchester City's heels.

Injuries to strikers have hit Fulham hard and they were two down after a quarter of the clash with Stockport at Edgeley Park. A better second half performance saw Danny Cadamarteri score the first goal of his loan period from Everton but it was not enough.

In a close-fought battle in East Anglia Daryl Sutch's 27th minute goal was enough to give Norwich the points against Forest and Portsmouth had Alan McLoughlin's penalties in each half - the equaliser three minutes from the end - to thank for a draw with fourth-placed Birmingham.

The Midlands team cancelled out McLoughlin's first spot-kick with a 59th-minute effort from Stan Lazaridis and Michael Johnson put them in front three minutes later.

West Brom, with three wins and three draws on their travels, are better away from home than at the Hawthorns where they have yet to win. But Tranmere Rovers put paid to that unbeaten record with two goals in four minutes from striker Andy Parkinson and Alan Mahon's 82nd-minute penalty put the icing on the cake for the Rovers.

In the Nationwide Division two, Aussie Danny Allsopp took just 80 seconds to make an impact at Meadow Lane when the striker, on loan from Manchester City, gave leaders Notts County the lead, hammering home a rebound from Clayton Blackmore's shot.

But Gillingham have their own goal-scoring genius in 28-year-old Robert Taylor and he cracked in his seventh in the last 84 minutes playing time - his 13th of the season - to ensure a share of the points.

Scunthorpe, knocked out of the FA Cup by non-League Rushden and Diamonds last week, got another good hiding going down 4-1 to Millwall in front of their own crowd.

Aston Villa (0) 0 Southampton (0) 1
Aston Villa: James, Wright, Southgate, Dublin, Merson (Gharyay 81), Thompson (Boateng 81), Barry, Carbone, Delaney, Stone, Calderwood.
Southampton: Jones, Dodd, Lundekvam, Richards, Oakley, Hughes, Ripley (Boa Morte 74), Pahars, Colletier, Kachloul, Soltvedt (Beattie 86).
Booked: Richards, Kachloul, Colletier.
Goals: Richards 84.
Att: 26,474

Bradford (1) 1 Coventry (1) 1
Bradford: Clarke, Halls (Lawrence 59), Wetherall, O'Brien, Sharpe, Windass, McCall, Redfearn, Saunders (Beagrie 40), Mills, Blake (Rankin 83).
Booked: Redfearn, Halls, Lawrence.
Goals: Mills 43.
Coventry: Hedman, Williams, Shaw, Telfer, Hall, Chippo, McAllister, Palmer, Froggatt, Keane, Hadji.
Eustace, Roussel.
Booked: Froggatt.
Goals: McAllister 1.
Att: 17,587

Liverpool (0) 2 Derby (0) 0
Liverpool: Westerveld, Staunton, Henchoz, Hyypia, Heggem, Carragher, Redknapp, Hamann, Smicer (Murphy 14), Owen (Gerrard 80), Camara (Meijer 57).
Goals: Murphy 65, Redknapp 69.
Derby: Hoult, Laursen, Carbonari, Schnoor,

Erano (Borbokis 21), Delap, Johnson (Prior 51), Powell, Dorico, Fuentes (Sturridge 51), Burton.
Att: 44,467

Man Utd (1) 2 Leicester (0) 0
Man Utd: Bosnich, Neville (Berg 83), Stam, Silvestre, Higginbottom (May 79), Solskjaer, Keane, Scholes, Giggs, Cole, Yorke.
Goals: Cole 30, 83.
Leicester: Flowers, Sinclair, Elliott, Taggart, Impey, Savage, Lennon, Izzet, Guppy, Heskey, Cofee (Walsh 79).
Att: 55,191

Middlesbrough (0) 1 Sunderland (0) 1
Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Stamp, Vickers, Cooper, Pallister, O'Neill, Juninho, Ince, Ziege, Ricard, Deane.
Beresford, Armstrong.
Booked: Deane, Vickers, O'Neill.
Goals: Ricard 76.
Sunderland: Sorensen, Makin, Butler, Bould, Gray (Reddy 76), Summerbee, Roy (Williams 35), McCann (Ball 70), Schwarz, Phillips, Quinn.
Sent Off: Makin (32).
Booked: Butler, Makin, Williams, Ball, Schwarz, Phillips, Quinn.
Goals: Reddy 78.
Att: 34,793

Sheff Wed (0) 2 Watford (1) 2
Sheff Wed: Pressman, Atherton (Nolan 75), Walker, Thorne, Hinchcliffe, Alexandersson

(Cresswell 46), Sonner, Jonk, Rudi, Booth, De Brie.
Booked: De Bilde, Cresswell.
Goals: De Bilde 56 pen, 78.
Watford: Chamberlain, Page, Palmer, Panayi (Gibbs 63), Cox, Easton, Hyde, Johnson, Millen, Ngonge (Smith 82), Wootter (Noel-Williams 42).
Goals: Ngonge 21, Page 59.
Att: 21,658

Chelsea (0) 0 West Ham (0) 0
Chelsea: De Goey, Ferrer, Desailly, Leboeuf, Babayaro, Petrescu, Deschamps, Morris, Poyet, Flo, Zola (Ambrosetti 68).
Booked: Poyet, Ferrer, Leboeuf.
West Ham: Forrest, Simac, Ferdinand, Margas, Sinclair, Lomas, Foe, Lampard, Keller, Cole (Ruddock 87), Wanchope.
Sent Off: Margas (85).
Booked: Margas, Lomas, Stimac, Cole.
Att: 34,935

Newcastle (0) 1 Everton (0) 1
Newcastle: Harper, Pistone, Dumas, Dabizas, Domi, Solano, Lee, Speed, Gallacher, Ferguson (Maric 84), Shearer.
Glass.
Booked: Speed, Dumas.
Goals: Shearer 46 pen.
Everton: Gerrard, Weir, Cleland, Unsworth, Ball (Johnson 46), Dunne, Collins, Barnby, Pembroke, Campbell, Hutchison.
Booked: Cleland, Barnby, Dunne, Gerrard, Johnson, Unsworth.

Goals: Campbell 62.
Att: 36,164

Tottenham (2) 2 Arsenal (1) 1
Tottenham: Walker, Carr, Pery, Campbell, Edinburgh, Leonhardsen (Fox 87), Sherwood, Clemence, Ginola (Dominguez 89), Iversen, Armstrong.
Booked: Edinburgh, Leonhardsen, Clemence, Carr.
Goals: Iversen 7, Sherwood 20.
Arsenal: Seaman, Dixon, Keown, Adams, Winterburn, Ljungberg, Petit (Grimandi 77), Vieira, Overmars, Kanu (Suker 72), Bergkamp.
Sent Off: Ljungberg (53), Keown (90).
Booked: Petit, Bergkamp, Keown, Vieira, Dixon, Suker.
Goals: Vieira 39.
Att: 36,085

Wimbledon (1) 2 Leeds (0) 0
Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham, Hreidarsson, Thatcher, Kimble, Cort (Andresen 90), Earle, Andersen, Euell, Gayle (Badir 81), Hartson (Leabum 89).
Booked: Kimble, Hreidarsson.
Goals: Hartson 31, Gayle 66.
Leeds: Martyn, Kelly, Woodgate (Duberry 46), Radebe, Harte, Bowyer (Bakke 62), Batty, McPhail, Kewell, Smith (Hopkin 78), Huckerby.
Att: 18,747

COMPILED BY INSIDE SOCCER

RANGERS WIN AULD FIRM DERBY



Billy Dodds ...celebrates his goal.

After impressing on their travels in Europe all season, Rangers confirmed their superiority over Celtic on the home front to claim a 4-2 victory in a dramatic Old Firm clash at Ibrox.

A pulsating affair saw Rangers 2-1 down going into first-half injury time after an Eyal Berkovic double cancelled out Jonatan Johansson's 20th-minute close range effort.

The Scottish record signing, a £5.75million capture from West Ham, looked to have put Celtic on course for a positive result, but a Jorg Albertz penalty before the interval changed that.

Scotland international Paul Lambert suffered a facial injury in the challenge on Albertz which prompted the award and is now a major doubt for England's Hampden Park visit next week.

The second-half saw Rangers establish a level of control which left Celtic reeling, Lorenzo Amoroso's 50th-minute free kick effectively setting the pattern of the half.

The goal needed a deflection to defeat Jonathan Gould just as Gabriel Amato required a

break of the ball to put him through for a 67th-minute fourth, but Rangers did not rely on luck alone.

Following the match Amoroso put the victory down to superior teamwork.

He explained: "Rangers are a little bit better - not because we have better players than them but because we play better as a team."

"It's a long way to go, and we have another three games against Celtic yet - but to win the first one is good," he said.

Billy Dodds geared up for the Euro 2000 qualifying play-offs by steering third-placed Dundee United to a 3-1 success over Aberdeen with a double at Tannadice.

Jim Paterson also struck for United after 55 minutes but his afternoon was ruined nine minutes later as he suffered a serious leg injury after a David Lilley challenge.

Thomas Solberg scored a last-minute consolation for the rock-bottom Dons.

Hibernian moved into fourth with a 2-0 triumph at Kilmarnock.

Kenny Miller struck a late double for Alex McLeish's men to silence the Rugby Park crowd.

They moved over both Hearts and Motherwell after those two sides drew 1-1 at Tynecastle.

Gary McSwegan's bullet header after only eight minutes gave the Jammies a lead they protected until the final stages when veteran John Spencer grabbed the leveller.

Dundee won a dour Tayside derby against St Johnstone thanks to a first half goal by striker Eddie Annand.

The Dundee man rose to head home a corner just as the half closed.

Saints can count themselves unlucky not to get a point, especially after a first half performance which had Dundee penned in their own area for long spells.

Dundee Utd (0) 3 Aberdeen (0) 1

Dundee Utd: Combe, Pascual, Hannah, De Vos, Dodds, Telesnikov, Paterson (Easton 67), Worrell, Partridge, McConalogue (McCulloch 89), Davidson.

Goals: Dodds 48, Paterson 55, Dodds 86.

Aberdeen: Leighton, Solberg, Jess (Hamilton 74), Winters, Mayer, Kiriakov (Buchan 60), Dow, Anderson, Guntveit, McAllister, Lilley (Cobian 72).

Booked: Mayer.

Goals: Solberg 90 pen.

Att: 8,170

Hearts (1) 1 Motherwell (0) 1

Hearts: Roussel, Pressley, Naysmith (Severin 49), Locke (Flogel 40), Ritchie, Fulton, Cameron, Jackson, Murray, McSwegan (Juanjo 61), Adam.

Booked: Ritchie, Juanjo.

Goals: McSwegan 8.

Motherwell: Woods, Doesburg,

McMillan, Teale, Kemble, Brannan, Spencer, Valakari, Nevin (Townsend 54), McCulloch, Twaddie (Harvey 81).

Nicholas. Booked: McCulloch.

Goals: Spencer 83.

Att: 12,514

Kilmarnock (0) 0 Hibernian (0) 2

Kilmarnock: Meldrum, MacPherson, Lauchlan, Dindeleux, Hay, Mitchell, Holt, Reilly (Jeffrey 75), Durrant, Cocard, Varelle.

Booked: Hay.

Hibernian: Colgan, Collins, Jack,

Dempsey, Smith, Sauzee (Hartley 53),

Latapy, Brebner, McGinlay,

Miller, Paatelainen (Lehmann 69).

Booked: Dempsey, Paatelainen.

Goals: Miller 70, 87.

Att: 8,735

St Johnstone (0) 0 Dundee (1) 1

St Johnstone: Main, McQuillan, Weir, Bolland, Griffin, O'Neill (Simao 79), Kane, O'Halloran, McMahon, O'Boyle (Lauchlan 52), Lowndes.

Booked: McQuillan.

Dundee: Douglas, Van Eljs, Tweed,

Ireland, Smith, Boyack, Rae,

McSkimming, Billio, Annand (Grady 86),

Falconer.

Booked: McSkimming, Falconer.

Goals: Annand 45.

Att: 4,917

Rangers (2) 4 Celtic (2) 2

Rangers: Klos, Pomini, Moore, Amoroso, Numan, Reyna, Ferguson, Albertz, Van Bronckhorst (Vidmar 89), Amato (Dune 77), Johansson (McCann 77).

Booked: Van Bronckhorst.

Goals: Johansson 19, Albertz 45 pen,

Amoroso 49, Amato 66.

Celtic: Gould, McNamara, Stubbs,

Tebily, Riseti, Burley, Lambert (Mjallby

45), Petrov (Blinker 57), Berkovic,

Wright (Burchill 78), Viduka.

Booked: Burley, Lambert, Petrov, Gould,

Blinker.

Goals: Berkovic 21, 42.

Att: 50,026

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|---------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Man Utd | 14 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 19 | 30 | 14 |
| Leeds | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 26 | 18 | 29 | 8 |
| Sunderland | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 24 | 12 | 28 | 12 |
| Arsenal | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 14 | 26 | 7 |
| Liverpool | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 12 | 24 | 6 |
| Tottenham | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 18 | 23 | 5 |
| Leicester | 14 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 23 | 19 | 23 | 4 |
| Middlesbrough | 14 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 18 | 22 | 1 |
| Chelsea | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 18 | 10 | 20 | 8 |
| Everton | 14 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 23 | 21 | 19 | 2 |
| West Ham | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 18 | 1 |
| Aston Villa | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 16 | 18 | -3 |
| Coventry | 14 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 16 | 17 | 5 |
| Southampton | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 20 | 23 | 16 | -3 |
| Wimbledon | 14 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 21 | 27 | 16 | -6 |
| Newcastle | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 24 | 28 | 12 | -4 |
| Bradford | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 21 | 12 | -10 |
| Derby | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 24 | 12 | -11 |
| Watford | 14 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 24 | 10 | -14 |
| Sheff Wed | 14 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 32 | 6 | -22 |

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Man City | 17 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 26 | 11 | 36 | 15 |
| Charlton | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 15 | 32 | 12 |
| Huddersfield | 17 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 33 | 19 | 31 | 14 |
| Barnsley | 16 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 30 | 25 | 28 | 5 |
| Ipswich | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 31 | 22 | 27 | 9 |
| Birmingham | 17 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 27 | 19 | 27 | 8 |
| Stockport | 17 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 22 | 23 | 27 | -1 |
| Fulham | 15 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 18 | 11 | 25 | 7 |
| QPR | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 24 | 18 | 25 | 6 |
| Wolverhampton | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 18 | 15 | 25 | 3 |
| Bolton | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 24 | 18 | 23 | 6 |
| Norwich | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 15 | 23 | 1 |
| Portsmouth | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 23 | 27 | 20 | -4 |
| Tranmere | 17 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 23 | 27 | 19 | -4 |
| Grimsby | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 23 | 19 | -8 |
| Nottm Forest | 16 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 2 |
| West Brom | 15 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 18 | -1 |
| Blackburn | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 17 | 18 | 16 | -1 |
| Sheff Utd | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 27 | 16 | -9 |
| Port Vale | 17 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 19 | 26 | 15 | -7 |
| Crystal Palace | 16 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 20 | 30 | 14 | -10 |
| Walsall | 17 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 28 | 14 | -14 |
| Crewe | 16 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 15 | 27 | 13 | -12 |

Swindon 17 3 4 10 12 29 13 -17

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|----------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Notts County | 16 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 24 | 13 | 33 | 11 |
| Wigan | 15 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 30 | 13 | 31 | 17 |
| Preston | 16 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 24 | 17 | 30 | 7 |
| Burnley | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 23 | 11 | 29 | 12 |
| Bristol Rovers | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 18 | 11 | 29 | 7 |
| Stoke | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 15 | 28 | 8 |
| Brentford | 15 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 23 | 14 | 27 | 9 |
| Luton | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 17 | 27 | 5 |
| Gillingham | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 20 | 26 | 7 |
| Millwall | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 20 | 17 | 23 | 3 |
| Bury | 16 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 25 | 20 | 22 | 5 |
| Wycombe | 16 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 21 | 20 | 22 | 1 |
| Bournemouth | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 19 | 18 | 22 | 1 |
| Scunthorpe | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 19 | -7 |
| Wrexham | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 30 | 16 | -13 |
| Oldham | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 16 | 20 | 15 | -4 |
| Bristol City | 15 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 15 | 20 | 15 | -5 |
| Oxford Utd | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 16 | 22 | 15 | -6 |
| Reading | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 21 | 28 | 15 | -7 |
| Cardiff | 16 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 16 | 23 | 13 | -7 |
| Blackpool | 16 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 30 | 12 | -13 |
| Cambridge Utd | 16 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 23 | 30 | 11 | -7 |
| Chesterfield | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 11 | -7 |
| Colchester | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 34 | 11 | -17 |

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|--------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| Peterborough | 16 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 16 | 32 | 8 |
| Barnet | 16 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 16 | 31 | 6 |
| Rotherham | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 25 | 10 | 30 | 15 |
| Torquay | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 20 | 16 | 29 | 4 |
| Darlington | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 18 | 11 | 28 | 7 |
| Southend | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 20 | 27 | 3 |
| Macclesfield | 16 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 24 | 20 | 26 | 4 |
| Plymouth | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 20 | 17 | 26 | 3 |
| Brighton | 16 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 23 | 14 | 25 | 9 |
| Halifax | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 20 | 18 | 24 | 2 |
| Northampton | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 11 | 24 | 2 |
| Swansea | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 13 | 23 | 3 |
| Hartlepool | 16 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 21 | 17 | 22 | 4 |
| Exeter | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 16 | 22 | 2 |
| Lincoln City | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 23 | 24 | 22 | -1 |
| Rochdale | 16 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 9 | 21 | 2 |
| York | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 20 | 20 | -5 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Mansfield | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 22 | 25 | 19 | -3 |
| Hull | 16 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 16 | 17 | -4 |
| Cheltenham | 15 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 15 | 17 | -4 |
| Carlisle | 16 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 16 | 28 | 14 | -12 |
| Shrewsbury | 16 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 28 | 12 | -15 |
| Chester | 16 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 16 | 32 | 12 | -16 |
| Leyton Orient | 16 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 27 | 10 | -14 |

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Rangers | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 34 | 10 | 31 | 24 |
| Celtic | 12 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 34 | 10 | 27 | 24 |
| Dundee Utd | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 18 | 23 | 2 |
| Hibernian | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 23 | 24 | 17 | -1 |
| Motherwell | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 19 | 20 | 17 | -1 |
| Hearts | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 3 |
| Dundee | 13 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 18 | 24 | 15 | -6 |
| St Johnstone | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 19 | 12 | -6 |
| Kilmarnock | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 20 | 10 | -8 |
| Aberdeen | 13 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 13 | 44 | 5 | -31 |

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|-----------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| St Mirren | 13 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 37 | 16 | 30 | 21 |
| Dunfermline | 13 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 22 | 14 | 22 | 8 |
| Raith | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 26 | 21 | 22 | 5 |
| Falkirk | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 1 |
| Livingston | 13 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 21 | 16 | 20 | 5 |
| Inverness CT | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 18 | 16 | -1 |
| Airdrie | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 20 | 16 | -9 |
| Ayr | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 15 | 21 | 14 | -6 |
| Greenock Morton | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 19 | 26 | 12 | -7 |
| Clydebank | 13 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 25 | 3 | -17 |

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|----------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Arbroath | 13 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 27 | 22 | 24 | 5 |
| Stenhousemuir | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 20 | 17 | 21 | 3 |
| Alloa | 13 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 17 | 15 | 21 | 2 |
| Clyde | 13 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 10 | 19 | 5 |
| Stranraer | 13 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 19 | 5 |
| Ross County | 13 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 11 | 19 | 2 |
| Hamilton | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 17 | 16 | -3 |
| Stirling | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 26 | 25 | 15 | 1 |
| Partick | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 10 | -8 |
| Queen of South | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 17 | 29 | 10 | -12 |

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND SEVEN

FOOTBALL KINGZ v WOLLONGONG WOLVES

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Michael Utting | 1 | Leslie Pogliacomi |
| 2 | Che Bunce | 2 | George Souris |
| 3 | Riki Van Steeden | 3 | Alvin Ceccoli |
| 4 | Fabio Macolino | 4 | Robert Stanton |
| 5 | Jonathon Perry | 5 | David Cervinski |
| 6 | Marcus Stergiopoulos | 6 | Matthew Horsley |
| 7 | Wynton Rufer | 7 | Paul Reid |
| 8 | Chris Jackson | 8 | Anthony Surjan |
| 9 | Fred de Jong | 9 | Sasho Dimoski |
| 10 | Dino Mennillo | 10 | Stuart Young |
| 11 | Robbie Middleby | 11 | Scott Chipperfield |
| 12 | Harry Ngata | 12 | Neil Harlock |
| 13 | Levent Osman | 13 | Noel Spencer |
| 14 | Batrum Suri | 14 | Saso Petrovski |
| 15 | Ivan Vicelich | 15 | David Huxley |
| 16 | Lee Jones | 16 | Peter Lahanas |
| 17 | Maciel Edmilson | 17 | Esala Masi |
| 18 | Stuart Riddle | 18 | Chad Bishop |
| 19 | Leigh Kenyon | 19 | Paul Dimech |
| 20 | Jason Batty | 20 | Daniel Bertrame |
| 21 | David Moya | 21 | Christian Zelvis |
| 22 | Aaron Silva | | |
| 23 | Simon Eaddy | | |

Venue: Jade Stadium - Saturday 13 November 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played N/A
 Last Week: Kingz 1-2 away win over Olympic
 Wolves 3-0 home win over Spirit

ADELAIDE FORCE v SOUTH MELBOURNE

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Vilson Knezevic | 1 | Milan Udvaracz |
| 2 | Ivan Zelic | 2 | Steve Iosifidis |
| 3 | | 3 | Fausto de Amicis |
| 4 | | 4 | Nick Orlie |
| 5 | Alex Tobin | 5 | Con Blatsis |
| 6 | Carlo Talladira | 6 | David Clarkson |
| 7 | Damian Mori | 7 | Steve Panopoulos |
| 8 | Carl Veart | 8 | Vaughan Coveny |
| 9 | Nick Sabljak | 9 | Paul Trimboli |
| 10 | Aurelio Vidmar | 10 | Michael Curcija |
| 11 | | 11 | John Anastasiadis |
| 12 | Nathan Day | 12 | Richie Alagich |
| 13 | John Fusco | 13 | Adrian Cuzzupe |
| 14 | Michael Cartwright | 14 | Anthony Magnacca |
| 15 | Louis Brain | 15 | Goran Lozanovski |
| 16 | Matthew Kemp | 16 | George Goutzoulis |
| 17 | Angelo Costanzo | 17 | Jim Tsekini |
| 18 | Bradley Hassell | 18 | Robert Liparoti |
| 19 | | 19 | Tasos Psonis |
| 20 | Vilson Knezevic | 20 | Chris Jones |
| 21 | Dong Ki Kim | 21 | |
| 22 | | 22 | Mustafa Mustafa |
| 23 | Jonathan Lihou | | |

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium - Friday 12 November 8.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 53 Force wins: 20 South Melbourne 23 wins: Draws 10
 Last Week: Force 1-0 away loss to Sydney United
 South Melbourne 3-0 home win over Knights

BRISBANE STRIKERS v CARLTON

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Clint Bolton | 1 | Dean Anastasiadis |
| 2 | Glenn Gwynne | 2 | Dave McPherson |
| 3 | Shane Stefanutto | 3 | Craig Deans |
| 4 | Andrew Davidson | 4 | Simon Colosimo |
| 5 | Matthew Beill | 5 | Sean Douglas |
| 6 | Brad Ditton | 6 | Andrew Marth |
| 7 | Shane Smeltz | 7 | Stuart Slater |
| 8 | David Pilic | 8 | Mark Atkinson |
| 9 | Paul Foster | 9 | Alex Moreira |
| 10 | Wayne Srhoj | 10 | Lubo Lapsansky |
| 11 | Greg Di Losa | 11 | Archie Thompson |
| 12 | Pete Dwyer | 12 | Mike Conroy |
| 13 | Stuart McClaren | 13 | Steve Martin |
| 14 | Jade North | 14 | John Markovski |
| 15 | Leo Langone | 15 | Con Anthopoulos |
| 16 | Peter Grierson | 16 | David Terminello |
| 17 | Jeremy Harris | 17 | Joe Tricarico |
| 18 | Nick Meredith | 18 | David Della Rocca |
| 19 | Wade Baldwin | 19 | Serdar Pir |
| 20 | Daniel Duke | 20 | Adrian Cagali |
| | | 21 | Andrew Packer |
| | | 22 | Angelo Moutsopoulos |
| | | 23 | Colin Azzopardi |
| | | 24 | Joshua Kennedy |

Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium - Saturday 13 November 1999 7.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 4 Strikers 1 Carlton wins: 2 Draws 1
 Last Week: Strikers 1-2 away win over Glory
 Carlton 2-0 home win over Cosmos

GIPPSLAND FALCONS v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Bojo Jevdjovic | 1 | Jim Kourtis |
| 2 | Dean Fak | 2 | Scott Thomas |
| 3 | Manny Gotis | 3 | Chris Zoricich |
| 4 | Mehmed Durakovic | 4 | Peter Tsekenis |
| 5 | Jeff Hopkins | 5 | Scott Baillie |
| 6 | Brian MacNichol | 6 | Ante Juric |
| 7 | Andy Vargas | 7 | Zlatko Arambasic |
| 8 | Clayton Bell | 8 | Marcus Phillips |
| 9 | Robbie Puca | 9 | Pablo Cardozo |
| 10 | Sandy Robertson | 10 | Brett Emerton |
| 11 | John Hutchinson | 11 | Chris Kalantzis |
| 12 | Peter Kakos | 12 | Sebastian Sinozic |
| 13 | Adrian Savage | 13 | |
| 14 | Doug Marcina | 14 | Gabriel Mendez |
| 15 | Jonathon Buhuglar | 15 | Lindsay Wilson |
| 16 | Juan Nilo | 16 | |
| 17 | Will Hastie | 17 | Paul Kohler |
| 18 | Michael Katz | 18 | John Kyriazopoulos |
| 19 | | 19 | Nick Carle |
| 20 | Simon Miotto | 20 | George Bouhoutsos |
| | | 21 | Lee Miot |
| | | 22 | Pete Zorbas |

Venue: Falcons Stadium - Saturday 13 November 1999 7.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 15 Falcons wins: 6 Olympic 3 wins: 2 Draws 6
 Last Week: Falcons 1-1 away draw with Power
 Olympic 1-2 home loss to Kingz

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS v NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Joey Rayher | 1 | Bob Catlin |
| 2 | Ivan Jolic | 2 | Shane Pryce |
| 3 | Ante Kovacevic | 3 | Andrew Roberts |
| 4 | Jason Vukadin | 4 | Adam Sanderson |
| 5 | John Didulica | 5 | Todd McManus |
| 6 | Mark Silic | 6 | Glenn Sprod |
| 7 | Dragi Nastevski | 7 | Travis Dodd |
| 8 | Ivan Kelic | 8 | Mark Wilson |
| 9 | Paul Urlovic | 9 | Chris Tancheski |
| 10 | Mijo Trupkovic | 10 | John Buonavoglia |
| 11 | Murtala Toyin Abbas | 11 | Luke Tomich |
| 12 | Lance Plunkett | 12 | Robert Angievski |
| 13 | Paul Magdic | 13 | Brad Wiczorek |
| 14 | Ransford Banini | 14 | Greg Owens |
| 15 | Alex Kriatzoglou | 15 | Joshua Ferguson |
| 16 | Brandon Vassalo | 16 | Vasko Trpceviski |
| 17 | Roddy Vargas | 17 | Paul Wheeler |
| 18 | Adrian Cervinski | 18 | Andrew Harper |
| 19 | Martin John | 19 | Chad Mansley |
| 20 | Zeljko Susa | 20 | Bradley Swancott |
| 21 | Steven Tillinger | 21 | Peter Juchniwicz |
| 22 | Michael Reda | 22 | Glen Moore |
| 23 | Hrvoje Matkovic | 30 | Jason Kos |

Venue: Knights Stadium - Sunday 14 November 8.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 15 Knights wins: 10 Breakers wins: 2 Draws 3
 Last Week: Knights 3-0 away loss to South Melbourne
 Breakers 2-3 home loss to Stallions

CANBERRA COSMOS v SYDNEY UNITED

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | David Millin | 1 | John Crawley |
| 3 | Toplica Popovich | 2 | Ray Younis |
| 4 | Danny Burt | 3 | Mark Racker |
| 5 | Nicholas Purdue | 4 | Velimir Kupresak |
| 6 | Jason Polak | 5 | Eddie Bosnar |
| 7 | David Winnie | 6 | Vince Savocca |
| 8 | Daniel Watkins | 7 | Mirko Jurilj |
| 9 | Alex Castro | 8 | Nahuel Arrarte |
| 10 | Michael Musitano | 9 | Mario Jermen |
| 11 | David Amanz | 10 | Ante Moric |
| 12 | Brian Hamilton | 11 | Tom Pondeljak |
| 13 | | 12 | Tom Maric |
| 14 | Harry James | 13 | Matthew Zec |
| 15 | Glen Kolpak | 14 | Kain Rastall |
| 16 | Ilja Prenzowski | 15 | Aytec Genc |
| 17 | Robbie Hooker | 16 | Joe Moric |
| 18 | Nikola Mrdja | 17 | Nick Bosevski |
| 19 | Geoff Howarth | 18 | Steve Bozinovski |
| 20 | Grant Barlow | 19 | Greg Saric |
| 21 | Scott Conlon | 20 | Steve Tolios |
| 22 | Elliot Zwangobani | 21 | Brett Hughes |
| 25 | Ivo De Jesus | 25 | Ante Deak |
| 26 | Gabriel Gonzalez | | |
| 30 | Angelo Konstantinou | | |

Venue: Bruce Stadium - Monday 15 November 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 9 Cosmos wins: 0 United wins: 7 Draws 2
 Last Week: Cosmos 2-0 away loss to Carlton
 United 1-0 home win over Force

LIVE TELECAST FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER 7.30 PM

OPTUS C7 CHANNEL 12

PARRAMATTA POWER v
PERTH GLORY



- 1 Andrew Crews
- 2 David Barrett
- 3 Michael Santalab
- 4 Steve Eagleton
- 5 Richard Pless
- 6 Joe Vrkic
- 7 Jacob Burns
- 8 Walter Ardone
- 9 Mile Sterjovski
- 10 Joel Griffiths
- 11 Steve Berry
- 12 Stephen Laybutt
- 13 Milan Blagojevic
- 14 John Angelucci(above)
- 15 Danny Townsend
- 16 Mark Byrnes
- 17 Danny Kukucka
- 18 Lachlan Campbell
- 19 Matt Thompson
- 20 Barney Smith
- 21 Ahmid Elrich
- 23 John Gibson
- 28 Peter Bennett
- 30 Mike Gibson

- 1 Danny Milosevic
- 2 Robert Trajkovski
- 3 Jamie Harnwell
- 4
- 5 Vinko Buljbasic
- 6 Gareth Naven
- 7 Scott Miller
- 8 Troy Halpin
- 9 Alistair Edwards
- 10 Bobby Despotoski
- 11 Kasey Wehrman
- 12 Peter Buljan
- 13 James Afkos
- 14 Dion Valle
- 15 Edgar Junior
- 16 Con Boutsianis
- 17 Vas Kalogeracos
- 18 Hamilton Thorp
- 19 John Carbone
- 20 Tony Franken
- 21 Ivan Ergic

Venue: Parramatta Stadium
Friday 12 November 7.30PM

Head-to-Head: N/A

Breakers:

Marconi:

Draws:

Last Week:

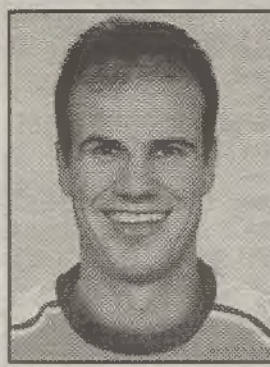
Power: 1-1 home draw with Falcons

Glory: 1-2 home loss to Strikers

LIVE SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER 7.00 PM

OPTUS C7 CHANNEL 13

MARCONI STALLIONS v
NORTHERN SPIRIT



- 2 Chad Gibson
- 3 Mark Babic
- 4
- 5 Dominic Longo
- 6 Pan-Keum Kim
- 7 Christian Care
- 8 Darren McDonald
- 9 Zeljko Babic
- 10 Brad Maloney
- 11 Mike Smith(above)
- 12
- 13 Danny Invincible
- 14 Buddy Farah
- 15 Pierluigi di Gia
- 16
- 17 Francis Awaritefe
- 18 Harry Karl
- 19 Brendan Ranaud
- 20 David Aceski
- 21 Paolo Marchesini
- 22 Kris Trajanovski
- 23 Vlado Zoric

- 1 John Perosh
- 2 Robert Enes
- 3 Matthew Langdon
- 4 Matthew Bingley
- 5 Mark Rudan
- 6 Luke Casserley
- 7 Robbie Slater
- 8 Tony Parinich
- 9 David Seal
- 11 Troy Cranney
- 12 Simon Catanzaro
- 13 Philip Moss
- 14 Shane Lyons
- 15 Anthony Faria
- 17 Paul Bilokapic
- 18 Paul Wearne
- 19 Graham Arnold
- 20 Jess Van Stratten
- 21 Michael Cunico
- 22 Paul Henderson
- 23 Adam Snyder
- 24 Elvis Olic
- 25 Ryan Griffiths
- 26 Jack Sobczyk
- 27 Adam Griffiths
- 28 Abbas Saad
- 29 Ian Crook
- 30 Sean Cranney

Venue: Marconi Stadium
Saturday 13 November 7.00PM

Head to Head: 4

Marconi wins: 2

Northern Spirit wins: 1

Draws: 1

Last Week:

Marconi: 3-2 away win over Breakers

Northern Spirit: 3-0 away loss to Wolves

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